

Soviets begin Europe pullout

BUDAPEST (AP) — Soviet soldiers loaded 31 tanks on a Ukraine-bound train Tuesday in the first stage of the Kremlin's plan to reduce its decade-long military presence in Eastern Europe by pulling back 50,000 tanks. The tank withdrawal was the first step in a partial pullback from Eastern Europe announced by Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev last December under a scheme to reduce the Red Army by a half-million men by the end of 1990. Soviet soldiers and tanks are scheduled to start leaving East Germany and Czechoslovakia next month, when the first of some 10,000 Kremlin troops slated to leave Hungary also will go home. About 450 tanks, 3,000 vehicles and more than 200 pieces of artillery also will be withdrawn from Hungary by the time the partial pullout is completed next year.

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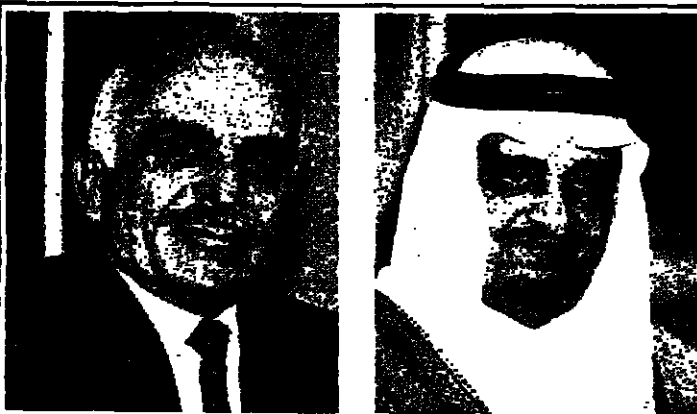
AFESD grants loan for grid project

CAIRO (Petra) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has approved a \$120 million loan to finance a project to link the electric grids of Jordan and Egypt, Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Energy Maher Abaza said Tuesday. Abaza said that a high-level team from the AFESD would arrive in Cairo by mid-May for the final signing of the financing agreement. The Egyptian minister said that an international consulting office had been assigned to conduct a study on laying a 10 kilometre power line linking Tabaa with Agaba, at a depth reaching up to 800 metres. Abaza had earlier discussed with an expert team a report on the feasibility study for linking the power grids of Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Turkey. Egypt's Electricity Corporation Director Imad Sharqawi said Amman would be the headquarter for the project's technical secretariat.

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HM King Hussein King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz

Fahd voices full support for Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a telephone call from Saudi Arabia's King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, who inquired about the situation in Jordan after the regrettable incidents last week. King Hussein reassured the Saudi leader that the situation was back to normal and thanked him for his concern. King Fahd expressed his country's total support for all steps taken by Jordan to eliminate the root causes of the regrettable incidents. The Saudi leader also congratulated King Hussein upon his return from visits to France and the United States.

1 killed, 24 wounded in occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot Tuesday dead a Palestinian protester and shot and wounded at least 24 others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Troops also shot and wounded at least 20 demonstrators in the Gaza Strip and four in the West Bank. Hospital officials said Haled Musa Erniat, 20, from the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, was killed by Israeli troops during clashes in Khan Younis. His death raised to at least 450 the number of Palestinians killed during the 16-month-old uprising. Palestinians said two other Palestinians found dead Tuesday were of men suspected of helping Israel suppress the revolt. One had been hacked and stabbed to death and the other had been badly beaten. Underground leaders in the territories have ordered harsh punishment for unrepentant collaborators and at least 31 have been killed during the uprising. Police said Azam Abdul Rahim Al Kadi, 21, was found dead in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city. Ribhi Mahmoud Bani-Oudeh, 22, was kidnapped by masked men and his body left in a field near Tamoun village. Another Palestinian, aged 51, was knifed to death in the Gaza Strip. Arab sources said he was a drug dealer killed for criminal motives. Palestinian reporters, who insisted on anonymity, said the dead man was both a collaborator with Israel and a drug dealer who had been warned several times by the "strike forces" of the uprising, those who enforce the leadership's orders. Hospitals in Gaza said three 14-year-old girls were shot and wounded by troops Tuesday during stone-throwing outside a Gaza City school. A 65-year-old man from Jabalya camp and a 17-year-old boy from Deir Al Balah camp were also wounded, they said. In the West Bank city of Hebron, residents said troops shot and wounded three Palestinians. Israelis smashed car and shop windows in the city Monday after their tour buses were stoned. A member of Israel's parliament said, meanwhile, that he was demanding an investigation into a report that an army colonel bragged about subverting an investigation into the killing of a Palestinian by soldiers. Dedi Zucker of the Citizens Rights Movement said he was told by a reserve soldier that during a briefing near the West Bank city of Ramallah, the colonel was asked what would happen to someone who shot a Palestinian. The reservist told Zucker that the colonel replied: "Listen, I have an example for you. Two weeks ago a Palestinian was shot at close range and when the investigators came, we arranged it so there would be no problem." Zucker told the AP that he wrote Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin three weeks ago to ask for an investigation into the death in the village of Deir Pizia, near Ramallah, but received no reply. Israeli officials said Tuesday that Foreign Minister Moshe Arens would visit the United States in mid-May for further talks on Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied territories. Shamir's plan includes proposals to hold elections in the occupied lands, improve conditions for Palestinian refugees, better relations with Arab states, and reaffirm the principles of the Camp David accords. The U.S. State Department urged on Monday that both Israelis and Palestinians keep an open mind about developing a plan to hold the balloting. (see page 2).

Shamir, meanwhile, visited Jerusalem's Old City and declared that Israel would never give up any part of Jerusalem in a settlement with Palestinians. Police Minister Chaim Bar-Lev said he ordered an investigation into Palestinian journalists' cards that have been acquired by many foreign reporters. The step came after police officers were filmed using "press" signs on their cars and Palestinian charges that Israeli secret agents were presenting themselves as journalists. Masked activists of the uprising have often stopped reporters to check their credentials.

"Those issuing these cards are an organisation in Jerusalem," Bar-Lev said. "We will check if it's against the law, and what law, and what steps can we take against people issuing these cards."

Robert Slater, chairman of the Foreign Press Association, said foreign journalists had to use the Palestinian cards because of the Israeli officials posing as journalists. "After police were posing as journalists, the Palestinians saw the Israeli press cards as identifying either a real journalist or a police agent," he said on Israel radio.

"It gives them some possibility to check if the man is really a reporter and we accept it, it makes it easier for us," Slater said. Radwan Abu Ayash, whose Arab Media Centre in Arab Jerusalem gives out the press cards in the name of the Arab Journalists Association, said he had been issuing them for two years and Bar-Lev was "making a snowball out of nothing."

"We have a licence from the interior ministry. This is a private card that does not need authorisation. It has no political dimension whatsoever."



CROWN PRINCE VISITS GHQ: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday visited the Armed Forces Headquarters where he was received by Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh and his assistants, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Armed Forces inspector general. Prince Hassan, accompanied by Abu Taleh, visited one of the formations of the Armed Forces and listened to a briefing on its duties and talks (Petra photo)

PLO leaders accept elections conditionally

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leaders have accepted Israel's proposals for elections in the occupied territories if they are part of an overall settlement, a senior Palestinian official said Tuesday.

Salah Khalaf, deputy to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fatah movement, told Reuters Tuesday that leaders from all Palestinian factions agreed such elections could be held, possibly even before an Israeli troop pullout from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We can discuss elections as one stage in a series of defined stages, as long as it's clear that the final settlement is self-determination and Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territory under (U.N.) Resolution 242," he said.

Khalaf (Abu Iyad), said in an interview that PLO leaders took the decision during a three-day meeting in Tunis which ended Monday night.

PLO spokesman have previously said the organisation could not endorse elections before Israeli withdrawal and U.N. supervision of the occupied territories.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who has rejected any troops pullout before elections, put forward the idea of a poll as part of a revived "autonomy" scheme similar to the one in the Camp David accords of 1978

which led to a treaty between Egypt and Israel.

Shamir, whose proposal received cautious backing from U.S. President George Bush, sees it as a way of Palestinians being selected to negotiate with Israel an interim period of self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu Iyad said the PLO rejected this.

"If they say (the elections are) for autonomy, then we reject autonomy and we have rejected it in the past... we have to know where elections lead in the end. To discuss elections alone would be to fall into the trap which Shamir wants," he said.

Asked if all Palestinian factions accepted this point of view, he said, "They all take the same position, the Popular Front, the Democratic Front... nobody missed this meeting... a reference to groups within the PLO that had previously opposed some of Arafat's peace ideas."

Abu Iyad confirmed that a PLO delegation would visit Damascus after the end of Ramadan for reconciliation talks without preconditions.

He said the PLO had not yet decided who to send. Other PLO officials have said Farouk Kadoumi, the head of the Political Department, would be the delegation leader.

Soviet backing

The Soviet Union supports the PLO in its rejection of elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under Israeli occupation, the PLO news agency Wafa said Tuesday.

Vladimir Poliakov, head of the Middle East Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, supported the PLO position in talks with Arafat in Tunis Monday, it said.

Arens to visit U.S.

Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will visit the United States in mid-May to discuss details of Shamir's election plan, an Israeli spokesman said Tuesday.

At the same time, he said, four working committees had been set up in the ministry to work out Israel's specific stand on each of the four points in Shamir's plan. "The intention is to work on the plan as soon as possible," said the spokesman.

He said the committees would begin meeting in the next few weeks. He also said he expects the cabinet to meet before Arens' trip to discuss the plan, which has not yet been approved by the Israeli government.

The exact date of Arens' visit and with whom he will meet have not been decided, the spokesman said.

U.N. says Namibian plan still on track

NAIROBI (R) — The United Nations said Tuesday fighting between South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas and South African-led forces, which had threatened Namibia's independence plan, had been contained and the plan could still go ahead on schedule.

Speaking to reporters in Nairobi a day before the final contingent of U.N. peace-keeping troops is due to arrive in Namibia, U.N. spokesman Frederic Eckhard said:

"UNTAG (United Nations Transitional Assistance Group) is substantially in place and functioning. I think (the plan) will certainly go ahead now if all parties want to keep it on schedule. We have a lot of catching up to do but we can do it."

The fighting erupted April 1, the day the U.N. plan went into effect, and threatened to derail the independence process in the territory, ruled by South Africa for the past 74 years in defiance of the United Nations.

About 289 SWAPO nationalist guerrillas and 27 members of South Africa's security forces were killed. Few UNTAG men were in Namibia at the time.

The final contingent of UNTAG troops — a battalion from Malaysia — is due to arrive in Namibia Wednesday to join other peace-keeping forces.

Eckhard, in Nairobi on his way to New York after spending a month in Namibia, said several issues still had to be resolved before Namibia's general election in November.

These include the release of political prisoners by South Africa's appointed governor of Namibia — estimated by Eckhard at about 200 — the return to the territory of up to 60,000 refugees and agreement on what the minimum voting age would be.

South Africa says voters should be at least 21 but SWAPO, widely expected to win the polls, favours 18.

Soviet party weeds out elders from leadership

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Communist Party's Central Committee Tuesday cleared out senior members to make way for a renewal of the party's top policy-making body that could strengthen President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Party ideology chief Vadim A. Medvedev told a news conference that the Central Committee unanimously approved a request from senior members of the Central Committee and candidate members to accept their retirement.

The TASS news agency said those who resigned had "reached the pensionable age." It said "a number" of Central Committee members and candidate members had retired, but did not say how many.

Medvedev did not give a figure, nor list any names. However, he added that 24 candidate members of the Central Committee had been promoted to full membership.

Gorbachev has complained in the past that opposition to his reform programme exists all the way to the 30-member Central Committee, which has included many officials who held spots there long before he became party leader in March 1985.

Medvedev, describing the vote as a milestone in Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme, indicated that as many as 100 people could have stepped down although he gave no exact number.

He said 24 figures — including some closely associated with reform — had been promoted to full membership of the committee from among its candidate or non-voting ranks.

"This should be regarded as a serious and important milestone on the course of perestroika," he declared.

The development was a clear victory for Gorbachev, who Soviet intellectuals with high-level connections say has been hampered in pursuing reform by the continued presence of many old officials in the committee.

Among candidate members of the committee moved into its top ranks — which before Tuesday numbered 301 — were former ambassador to West Germany Valentyn Falin, physicist Yevgeny Velikhov and foreign affairs expert Yevgeny Primakov.

Normally, dramatic changes in the composition of the committee, which is often described as the party's parliament, are decided at party congress, the last of which was held in early 1986.

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Clashes flare in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (Agencies) — Mauritania President Mohamed Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmad Taya Tuesday ordered a night curfew in the country's two main cities, following widespread violence against Senegalese residents.

Officials said the 10-hour curfew would be enforced in the capital Nouakchott and the coastal town of Nouadhibou.

Communal violence erupted Monday in the capital Nouakchott in a backlash against weekend incidents in neighbouring Senegal, where there was widespread looting of shops owned by immigrant Mauritians.

Witnesses said protesters armed with iron bars and clubs ransacked makeshift stalls in the city's markets and beat up their Senegalese owners.

On Monday afternoon security forces sealed off Nouakchott's sprawling main market to try to stop the rioting.

Attacks on Mauritanian properties continued Tuesday for the fourth consecutive day in Dakar but on a much smaller scale.

Soldiers were deployed during the night in troubled areas for the first time since the riots began Saturday.

Mauritanian traders and their families, apparently fearing for their lives, were escorted during the night by security forces to a mosque near the city's centre.

Reporters were banned by soldiers from entering the mosque's sprawling compound where an estimated 10,000 Mauritians have taken refuge.

Mauritanian diplomats said a government-chartered plane was expected to leave Dakar later Tuesday to repatriate a first group of refugees.

Mauritians and Senegalese have been fighting over a band of fertile territory bordering the Senegal River, the frontier between the two countries. Nouakchott has complained of Senegalese farming the Mauritanian side of the border.

On April 9, two Senegalese peasants were shot and killed by Mauritanian authorities in the village of Diawara, Senegal. The same day, Senegal captured 13 Mauritians, who were later released.



A Beirut resident who spent the night in an underground shelter

Shells rain on Beirut on eve of Arab talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Mortar bombs and shells pounded Beirut in a four-hour onslaught Tuesday as Arab peacemakers put the final touches to plans to deploy a ceasefire observer force.

Hours after the bombardment broke a week-long lull in the battles that have been raging around Beirut since mid-March, sporadic shellfire was still hitting coastal areas and mountain towns.

Radio stations said shells battered coastal positions around Byblos, north of Beirut, at a rate of three every five minutes. A sleeping man was killed in west Beirut when a shell crashed into his home.

Five U.N. vehicles were destroyed by shellfire which hit east Beirut during the barrage but no casualties were reported, security sources said.

More than 230 people have been killed since the fighting flared after army commander Major-General Michel Aoun ordered a sea blockade of illegal militia ports.

The U.N. Security Council Monday renewed appeals for a ceasefire and threw its support behind Arab League mediation.

League foreign ministers seeking to end the fighting and help Lebanese solve their differences are due to meet in Tunis Wednesday.

The prime mover of the league's peace committee, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said

before leaving for Tunis that he welcomed the U.N. backing.

The league is planning to send between 200 and 300 ceasefire observers to Lebanon, to deploy along Beirut's green line and eastwards to the mountains.

Pro-Syrian political sources said Damascus, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon, had no objections to an Arab observer force.

But, the Arab effort was jolted when Justice Minister Nabih Berr, whose Amal militia has taken no part in the fighting so far, rejected the dispatch of an Arab observer force for the proposed demilitarisation of Beirut.

"We need them to help us politically," he told a news conference in his sandbagged house in west Beirut. "We don't need more armies... another multinational Arab force."

Aoun was later reported to have accepted the observer force "as a first step" towards ending the fighting and finding a political solution.

He said in a telephone interview with the London-based Mideast Mirror newsletter from Beirut: "We have no objection to the observer force so long as it doesn't include any of the participants of the fighting."

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is prepared to send its own forces to Lebanon to quell the fighting but would still back an effort for Arab observers to oversee a ceasefire, a PLO spokesman said Tuesday.

"It is a proposal, an initiative,"

said PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman in Tunis, "a gesture from the PLO. We are ready to send a peace force to stop the war."

The mediation Arab team will go over the plan Tuesday evening and put the final version to an emergency meeting of the Arab League Wednesday.

"The ceasefire will be fairly easy. The political solution will remain in the hands of the Lebanese, but I believe there are good grounds for hope," a senior Arab League official said.

In a touch of irony, Beirut's electricity was restored Monday after power stations began generating again with fuel supplied by a French navy tanker over the weekend.

Power was rationed for only two hours a day. But it was the first grid electricity the capital has had in 10 days after fuel ran out at power plants.

Water supplies also began trickling back as the capital's pumping system, shut down when power was cut off, resumed operations. Water too was rationed.

The random bombardment raged from midnight to daybreak, forcing tens of thousands of Beirutis in the eastern and western sectors to shelter in underground bunkers. It later slackened into sporadic shelling.

East Beirut was hammered with 240-mm mortars and Soviet-designed BM-21 rockets launchers that fire 40 122-mm projectiles in 20 seconds.

Mousavi finds CIA links with W. German embassies

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Tuesday its break-up of U.S. spy networks uncovered proof that West German embassies in Europe cooperated with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi said in an interview quoted by Tehran Radio that the spies whose arrest was announced Friday were organised in various branches directly linked with CIA bases in Europe and the United States.

"The arrested people will be tried in court and punished for treason against the Islamic revolution and the people of their country," the radio, monitored in Cyprus, quoted him as saying.

Mousavi said investigations had turned up evidence linking the spies with embassies in Europe of certain European countries, especially those of West Germany.

"The people of West Germany should be aware that their embassies are at the service of U.S. spy machinery," he said without elaborating.

Mousavi said the network included cells which had received military training at U.S. bases, logistical groups and intelligence-gathering operatives in the armed forces.

Mousavi did not disclose how many people had been arrested, but said the sweep was a "devastating blow" to the CIA.

The United States Friday brushed aside Iranian accounts of the uncovered spy ring. "We

frankly don't know what they are talking about," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Friday that U.S. embassies in West Germany and Turkey had been instrumental in recruiting spies from among Iranians applying for visas to go to the United States.

Mousavi said the CIA's action violated an indirect agreement reached with Algerian mediation in January 1981 under which Washington pledged not to interfere in Iran's internal affairs.

The agreement freed 52 Americans held hostage in the takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by militant students on Nov. 4, 1979.

It also set up a tribunal to arbitrate financial claims between Iran and the United States, and Mousavi said Iran would take the spy charges to this forum.

Mousavi said Iran had uncovered the spy ring without any help from foreign intelligence services. The ring had gathered data on a vast range of military, economic, political and social subjects.

The network controlled "certain people at different levels, even in sensitive positions, who could have access to a lot of information," Mousavi said.

He said the network's branch in the armed forces had relayed information about movements of Iranian combatants to the CIA for several years.

Rafsanjani said Friday that senior navy officers who had betrayed Iranian naval movements in the Gulf to the Americans during the war with Iraq were among those arrested.

In Bonn, a spokesman for the West German Foreign Ministry declined comment on Mousavi's accusations, saying Iran had not been in touch with the Bonn government on the matter.

West Germany maintained better relations with Iran's fundamentalist Islamic government than other Western nations during much of the 1980s.

But relations suffered a blow when West Germany and other European Community (EC) countries recalled their ambassadors earlier this year in response to Tehran's death threats against British author Salman Rushdie over his book "The Satanic Verses."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the West German ambassador would remain in Bonn until further notice.

Iran accused West Germany Monday of helping Iraq to develop medium-range missiles and other weapons and said it might curb trade with Bonn in protest.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said West German charge d'Affaires Thomas Troemel was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to receive Tehran's protest.

West Germany was Iran's leading trade partner last year with exports amounting to \$1.6 billion and imports of \$600 million, most of it crude oil.



Scenes from the uprising: (Left) Palestinian girls stone troops approaching their village in the occupied West Bank. An Israeli soldier takes aim at an AP photographer after ordering him to leave the scene (centre). Photo at right shows soldiers taking away by force a Palestinian boy.

U.S. advocates open mind on elections, urges end to violence

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States Monday urged Israelis and Palestinians to keep an open mind about an evolving plan for elections in the occupied territories and to restrain a recent escalation of the violence between them.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States was deeply concerned over the increase in casualties over the past few days in clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians protesting Israel's rule of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The increase in tensions runs directly counter to the cause of peace," she said. "We strongly urge both sides to exercise restraint. We remain determined to work with all parties to break out of the current confrontation and to replace violence with political dialogue and accommodation."

Discussing the possibility of Palestinian elections as a first step towards peace settlement, Tutwiler said the United States would work closely with all the parties in the region in

developing that concept fully.

The goal, she said, is to create conditions for direct negotiations and peace.

"If elections are to fulfill their potential in this regard, it will be essential that they be free and fair in the best tradition of democracy. All those truly committed to peace should demonstrate that commitment by keeping an open mind to proposals that can advance the process," she said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has proposed a plan for

elections in the West Bank and Gaza to choose Palestinians to negotiate an interim peace treaty with Israel.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) reportedly has countered with a proposal for elections in the occupied lands for members of the Palestine National Council.

Shamir says Israel will never hold talks with the PLO but several Labour Party ministers recently have urged a change in Israel's stand.

Tutwiler cautioned that dis-

cussions of an election format had just begun in the Middle East, following presentation of the plan to the U.S. administration during Shamir's visit earlier this month.

"Obviously, during the course of these discussions, there will be many and varied views on the issue, some workable, some not," she said.

"We will work closely with all the parties in the region in developing the concept fully so that it can work and contribute towards creating conditions for direct negotiations and peace."

Najibullah renews charges of Pakistani armed intervention

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah accused Pakistan in an interview published Tuesday of pouring "oil on fire," by sending troops into Afghanistan to fight against his Soviet-backed government.

He told the daily Al Watan Pakistan was violating the Geneva accord under which the Soviet Union withdrew its estimated 115,000 troops from Afghanistan.

"If such interventions and aggression do not stop... there are no guarantees that the flames of war will burn only Afghanistan."

"Those who pour oil on fire will not be secure," Najibullah said.

The Soviets completed their pullback on Feb. 15, ending nine years of occupation. The Mujahadeen have since been fighting to overthrow Najibullah.

Najibullah said Arabs were fighting alongside the Mujahadeen in the present offensive on Jalalabad, 115 kilometres east of Kabul.

Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries have denied such charges, although Saudi Arabia has said some individual volun-

teers had joined the rebels.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the offensive against Jalalabad was ordered by the Pakistani government at a meeting attended by the U.S. ambassador. Pakistan has denied the report and Washington withheld comment.

Najibullah said: "A joint 2,000-strong force, comprising Pakistani troops, from the brigades no. 11 and 18 and Muslim extremist militias launched an offensive on Jalalabad with the hope of taking the city in 72 hours."

Australia, New Zealand join int'l condemnation of Israel

NEW YORK — Australia's newly appointed ambassador to the United Nations, Dr. Peter Wilenski, has strongly condemned Israel over its "proven incidents of violence against Palestinian civilians."

Dr. Wilenski — in his first address to the General Assembly — also criticised Israeli restrictions on access to the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest places.

"Australia and New Zealand cannot condone the arbitrary measures being used by Israel to contain unrest and, in particular, such practices as the use of live ammunition against Palestinian

demonstrators," he said.

Dr. Wilenski spoke for New Zealand under an arrangement between the two countries — and in some cases Canada — under which they will frequently pool resources to more effectively wade through the deluge of work at the U.N.

There is also some thought that as the CAN bloc (Canada, Australia, New Zealand), the three countries might have a more powerful voice if they spoke as one.

Dr. Wilenski was supporting a resolution condemning Israel and also calling on the Security Council to provide international pro-

tection for Palestinians "in occupied Palestinian territory" Canada also voted in favour of the resolution.

The resolution was passed by 129 votes to two (the United States and Israel) with one abstention (Liberia). All major U.S. allies in Western Europe, including the U.K. and France, voted in favour.

Dr. Wilenski said that Australia and New Zealand accepted "the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination including, if they choose, to independence and the possibility of establishing their own 'independent' State."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

EC gives \$324,000 to UNRWA

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) said Tuesday it was giving 290,000 ECUs (\$324,000) medical aid to a United Nations programme which helps Palestinian refugees. It said the money would go to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) to pay for medical supplies and cover the costs of hiring trained staff. Last Wednesday the community said it was giving UNRWA \$19.2 million ECUs (\$21.5 million) to help feed the more than 2.2 million refugees in camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Iranians stone 11 to death

NICOSIA (R) — Iranians have stoned to death 11 prostitutes or pimps in an execution watched by thousands of people at a sports stadium. The Iranian newspaper Kayhan, available in Nicosia Tuesday, said the 11 were among 15 men and women sentenced to death for running a prostitution network in several Iranian provinces and an unnamed Arab Gulf country. The names of the 15 executed indicated that 11 or 12 were women. The paper did not say how many of those sentenced to death were women and did not report how the other four people were executed. The court convicted the 15 of "spreading corruption on earth". Kayhan said a total of 58 people were charged. Six were acquitted and the others were flogged or jailed. The paper said all the executions in the Gulf city of Bushehr were watched by thousands of people.

U.N. food convoy reaches Sudan town

NAIROBI (R) — A U.N. food convoy late Monday reached the rebel-held town of Torit in southern Sudan after negotiating mud and seasonal rivers already beginning to flow across the roadway. Paul Mitchell, a spokesman for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) in Nairobi, said the 31-truck convoy carried 300 to 400 tonnes of maize destined for about 50,000 people in the area. Relief agencies are racing to get as much food as possible into war-torn southern Sudan before the rainy season makes most roads and airstrips in the region unusable.

Ozal sues author for defamation

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and his wife Semra are suing the author of a best-selling book about the Ozal family for defamation of character, their lawyer said Tuesday. "The Ozals are seeking 300 million lira (\$145,000) in damages jointly from the author and the publisher, 'lawyer Bilgin Yazicioglu told Reuters. The book, 'Where is Turgut Rummung From' by Emin Colasan, is a scathing attack on the Ozal family's role in state affairs. It has sold more than 200,000 copies since it was published in January.

Bush vows to seek hostage release

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush vowed Monday to "go the extra mile" to seek the release of the hostages held in Lebanon. "I just want to say without being able to give you any good news that we are concerned, we will follow every intelligence lead, we will go the extra mile to do what we can," Bush said, speaking before the annual luncheon of the AP in Chicago. He specifically mentioned Terry Anderson, chief Middle East Correspondent of the AP, kidnapped March 16, 1985. "So we will continue to keep this question of the hostages on the front burner," the president said.

Afghan refugees in Kabul wait patiently for peace

By Sharon Herbaugh
The Associated Press

KABUL — Mohammad Jqubi does not worry about how Afghanistan's decade-long civil war will end. He is dreaming about what he will do when it's finally over.

"I just want to go home," the 60-year-old farmer said. He, his wife, their son and grandchildren fled to Kabul in the early days of the war after Soviet jets bombed their village in northern Afghanistan.

"Our house was destroyed twice, so we decided to come to Kabul and wait," said Jqubi, who sat cross-legged in front of a trinket stand he set up in the city's old bazaar.

Life is tough right now, he said, but it would be worse at home.

"Someday we'll go back. I know we will, and we'll plant crops and rebuild the house and..." the turbaned Jqubi said in broken English, his voice trailing off.

An insurgency began immediately after a coup that ousted President Mohammad Daoud April 27, 1978, and installed a Marxist government.

More than five million Afghans — about one-third of the country's pre-war population — have since fled to Afghanistan's neighbours to the east and west, Pakistan and Iran. Towns and refugee camps house more than three million Afghans.

A year ago, the government of President Najibullah declared a policy of "national reconciliation" and offered a package of enticements to refugees, including a six-month exemption from military service.

By official count, only about 188,000 Afghans

living in refugee camps outside the country have responded. And with no sign of peace, that trickle is slowing.

Others, like Jqubi, fled the bombs and bullets and came to Kabul, which rests in dust-coloured poverty in a basin ringed by mountains that the guerrillas control.

Many of the refugees set up shops in the bazaars, where women covered in full-length pleated veils sort onions, carrots and greens for sale.

Crowds of shoppers and traders throng the narrow walkways between open troughs carrying huge vats of water. The smell of raw sewage from the Kabul River mingles with the exotic scents of the spice shops.

Whether the U.S.-backed guerrillas will press on with their fight to oust Najibullah and his government is an open question. But few expect a unified opposition to emerge.

"Tired of war"

Said Masum, who left his home in Pakia province about 18 months ago, believes less than a quarter of all Afghans are concerned with politics and are ready to cope with whatever political settlement can be worked out.

"We're just tired of war," he sighed.

"I think if there were a true coalition government, we would all be happy. I don't care who's in power as long as I can sell my birds," the 47-year-old Masum said.

For he and the other refugees in Kabul, replacing the peril and loss of the civil war with the familiar troubles of the past would be a welcome change.

Few of the merchants, farmers, students and



An international Red Cross Society in Kabul for war wounded (Sygma photo)

labourers biding their time in the relatively safe capital display much emotion when asked what they expect to happen next.

Instead, they seem eager to return to their former lives and to times when the battles were as numerous but dealt with land and water feuds instead of political ideology.

Akmed Jallaa, an English-speaking carpet dealer on Chicken street, the venue of the wealthy and foreigners, says business is good

despite the war. But he says he also would be happy to leave it all behind and go back to his native city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

"I'm not afraid of either side," said Jallaa, 49, who has been living in Kabul for about two years.

How will he make a living after a decade of fighting?

He shrugged and replied: "We made our living in other ways before we came here and we'll make it in other ways when we leave."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

CHURCHES

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korean

15:40 Programme review

15:45 Children's programmes

17:15 Programme on plants

17:30 Out of World

18:00 News summary in Arabic

18:05 Cairo News Message

18:15 Arabic series

19:00 Local programme

19:30 Common mistakes

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Programme review

22:10 Wrestling

23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary

19:00 News in French

19:15 'Aujourd'hui en Jordanie'

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Late with Lucy

21:10 Documentary

22:00 News in English

22:30 The Alien Years

PRAYER TIMES

03:27 Fajr

04:51 Sunrise (Dulal)

11:33 Dhur

15:12 'Asr

18:16 Maghrib

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624940

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637450

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rabbinic Congregation Tel. 822608

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN

Min./max. temp. 14 / 27

Aqaba 19 / 36

Deserts 12 / 30

Jordan Valley 18 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hani Haddadin 777751

Dr. Fakher Baidi 625778

Dr. Tayseer Khader 608857

Dr. Abbas Hakin 891256

Firas pharmacy 661912

Pedrows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nairouka pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr (—)

Al Shamsa' pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Bassam Safarini (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 62209093

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 65639091

Public Security Department 656000 / 685111

Civil Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 874667

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12

Overseas Calls 17

Central Amman Telephones 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

HOSPITALS

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 636381

Company 06-53200

RT Flight Information 06-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-52000

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 642416

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 623262

Mallat, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 66411/14

University Hospital 659131

Shmeisani Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279

The Islamic, Abdali 66612/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641648

Italian, Al-Muhajirun 7771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 60224050

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Damascus (RJ)

09:10 Rome (AZ)

09:30 Cairo (MS)

09:30 Baghdad (RJ)

10:40 Baghdad (RJ)

11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

12:15 Sana'a, Jeddah (TY)

12:15 Kuwait (KU)

13:30 Istanbul, Ankara (TK)

14:10 Jeddah (SV)

16:25 Frankfurt (LH)

20:05 Tripoli, Damascus (RJ)

23:55 Tunis (TU)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Aqaba (RJ)

10:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)

11:30 Riyadh (RJ)

11:30 Geneva, London (RJ)

11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:00 Cairo (RJ)

12:15 Calcutta (RJ)

12:15 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)

12:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

12:15 Jeddah (RJ)

12:15 Damascus (RJ)

12:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

12:15 Larnaca (RJ)

16:20 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)

17:00 Riyadh (RJ)

17:05 Paris (RJ)

17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)

17:45 London, Geneva (RJ)

17:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)

18:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)

19:45 Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:35 Cairo (MS)

10:40 Baghdad (RJ)

12:00 Baghdad (RJ)

14:35 Kuwait (KU)

15:10 Dhahran (TK)

17:00 Medina, Jeddah (SV)

19:25 Sana'a (LH)

21:05 Karachi (PK)

01:00 Dubai (TU)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Almond 600 / 500

Apple 300 / 400

Banana 350 / 300

Banana (Mukannam) 300 / 250

Beans 250 / 200

Broad beans 90 / 60

Cabbage 80 / 50

Carrots 160 / 120

Cauliflower 140 / 100

Cucumbers 170 / 120

Dates 450 / 400

Eggplant 160 / 120

Garlic 280 / 200

Leaves 380 / 300

Lettuce (per one) 80 / 50

Marrow (large) 70 / 40

Marrow (small) 140 / 100

Orange 380 / 320

Onion (dry) 150 / 100

Onion (green) 90 / 60

Pepper (hot) 160 / 120

Pepper (sweet) 240 / 200

Potato 280 / 200

Spinach 150 / 100

Strawberry 1200 / 1000

Tomatoes 270 / 220

سكنا من لاصول



Student nurses during Tuesday's scientific day held at the University of Jordan

Faculty of nursing holds scientific day

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Faculty of Nursing at the University of Jordan Tuesday held a "scientific day" for the academic year 1988-89 during which several speakers outlined the different aspects of the nursing profession and the faculty's activities. Dr. Bassam Abu Ghazaleh, vice president for scientific facilities, opened the event on behalf of University President Abdul Salam Al Majali by outlining the achievements and programmes provided by the nursing faculty and its services to the community. In the past few years Abu Ghazaleh noted, the faculty witnessed a growing demand by male and female students to enrol at the faculty and study nursing. Abu Ghazaleh noted that nine of the post graduates will be turned out later this

year with MSc degrees to help in providing training to growing numbers of nurses in the Kingdom.

Abu Ghazaleh also gave details in his speech about the faculty's scholarships offered to a number of its students for post graduate studies in the United States.

Dr. Majida Zaki Al Deen, the faculty's dean, outlined the courses given to the nurses and reviewed its activities and its contribution to voluntary services as well as the seminars and other gatherings held in different parts of the country to benefit the local communities. She said that the faculty has been providing intensive training courses to female nurses from North Yemen and Syria.

Jordan imported JD 101m of foodstuff in 1988

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's imports of food supplies in the past year amounted to JD 101 million, according to the Ministry of Supply's director of prices and quality control department Dr. Mohammad Zaitoun.

Zaitoun said in a statement published in Al Dustour Arabic daily Tuesday that Jordan's main food supply imports included wheat, sugar, meat and cereals which he said, are among the basic foodstuffs in the country.

But he added, JD 173 million is the total amount spent last year on food commodities that include the staples and others. According to Zaitoun, Jordan exported JD 30 million worth of food supplies or 12 per cent of the total exports in the past year.

The Ministry of Supply, which is responsible for ensuring food supplies to the local markets, adopts certain policies within a development plan to enable the country to ensure food security,

Zaitoun noted. He said that the ministry continues to purchase locally produced cereals at subsidised prices to encourage farmers to produce more and keeps a strategic reserve of cereals and other staples that would suffice the Kingdom for at least six months.

At the same time, he said the ministry controls price of various food stuffs, milk, cooking oil, fish and meat; and distributes fairly all the imported consignments to various areas.

Police fencers graduate

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony was held at the Police Women headquarters Tuesday to graduate 12 women police officers who completed a two month training course in fencing.

Major Hussein Shahin, the policewomen department director made a speech at the ceremony outlining the courses given to the officers and congratulating the graduates. The graduates who were picked up from various governorates, presented a performance of their skills at the graduation ceremony, and received their award and diplomas from Major Shahin.

Educational cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of education in the Greater Amman region Mohammad Bani Hani met here Tuesday with an educational delegation from the United Arab Emirates and discussed educational cooperation.

Bani Hani outlined to the guests the Ministry of Educa-

tion's programmes to overhaul the educational system in the country and briefed them on the new legislations and procedures designed to re-organise the ministry's structure and regulations in the course of implementing the 1987 educational conference. Several educational officials attended the meeting.

Haj affairs

AMMAN (J.T.) — Matters related to the transportation of would be pilgrims from and to the holy places in Mecca and Medina and their accommodation during this year's haj pilgrimage season were discussed at a meeting held here Tuesday under the chairmanship of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel.

The pilgrims committee members who attended the meeting discussed with representatives and owners of transport companies details of a plan for the transportation and accommodation process, according to a ministry statement. Procedures for the annual pilgrimage were discussed in detail earlier this month by the minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

Basketballers to play in UAE

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Aramex basketball team will be participating in the Nadi Al Wehdeh Ramadan Tournament in Abu Dhabi from April 26 until May 4, 1989.

The Aramex team is invited by the Jordanian Community Club. They will be one of 9 international teams participating in this 7-day tournament.

Aramex will be sending 12 of its top players to participate. The players will arrive in Abu Dhabi on April 26.

Tarawneh: All is ready for earthquake

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As earthquake experts predict an earthquake in the region measuring five to six on the Richter scale in the year 2007, plans are underway at the Civil Defence Department to take precautionary measures, said the Director-General of the Civil Defence Department (CDD), Khaled Tarawneh.

According to Tarawneh, there are three stages within the civil defence earthquake relief service. The first, is what he calls the "pre-disaster" stage. Here, radio and television network broadcasters will be trained to educate the public on safety measures in the case of an earthquake.

Also, during this stage, an emergency camp will be established to shelter the homeless, "after they have been safely evacuated (by the civil defence)."

The civil defence during the second stage, which is at the time of the earthquake, will send a

national alarm to the authorities and the public, identify the epicentre of the earthquake, assess the extent of the damage done and the measures needed to initially remedy the situation, clear the rubble and rescue people buried in the rubble, treat minor injuries by administering first aid, transport those identified, control any fires and monitor hazardous zones.

"The Civil Defence Department's supreme council will supervise the work of the relief teams, organise outside help and secure mobilisation of all competent services," said Tarawneh.

At the third stage, the civil defence will compile studies on the disaster in order to have future reference on the methods implemented and to improve in its handling of the disaster. In addition there will be cooperation with other concerned authorities "to eliminate the effects left over such as diseases, mass burial of the dead and the clearing of the



Khaled Tarawneh

rubble," he said. In order to lessen the damage of an earthquake, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has proposed that an earthquake clause in the construction code become mandatory. This proposal is presently at the legislative court for legal action.

"The civil defence supports all parties involved who are pushing to make the code mandatory," said Tarawneh, adding that the Civil Defence Department has been advising the local consultants and engineers to take the earthquake clause into consideration when designing buildings.

RSS monitors ozone in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — As of April 1, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has added a new component to its air pollution monitoring network in Amman. In addition to the continuous monitoring plan for sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and suspended dust in the atmosphere, the RSS has also initiated a monitoring plan for the ozone.

Ozone is formed when primary emissions of reactive hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, usually emitted from motor vehicles, react in sunlight.

Adverse effects of increase of ozone levels include acute eye, nose and throat irritation.

Meanwhile, the environmental pollution studies division at the RSS has recently issued the first report on air quality in Amman. Results show that levels of suspended particles in the air exceed all internationally accepted standards.

Moreover, the study shows that during the cold periods of the year increased levels of air pollutants were recorded at downtown Amman. In addition to traffic flow and traffic congestion

downtown, domestic and commercial heating and lack of periodical maintenance of vehicles were also found to be responsible for contributing to increased pollution. One of the most important factors contributing to increased levels of pollution is the topographical features of downtown Amman.

Hilly areas surrounding downtown do not help in an efficient dispersion of air pollutants and thus prevent them from being

rapidly blown away. Moreover, it was noted that atmospheric stability coupled with extended periods of atmospheric stagnation restricting vertical mixing and dilution exert strong influence on pollution levels.

Among its various activities in environmental monitoring, the environmental pollution studies division is currently monitoring levels of hydrogen sulphide in Zarka.

Sorghum seminar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. Feed Grains Council, as cooperator of the USDA organisation representing the U.S. Feed Grain Farmers, has jointly sponsored a grain sorghum utilisation seminar on April 24/25, with the Ministry of Supply.

The conference, which was held at the Amman Plaza Hotel, covered all aspects of grain sorghum usage for poultry and live-

stocks as grain which is now not been widely utilised in Jordan prior to the recent purchase of 200,000 tons of U.S. grain sorghum by the Ministry of Supply under a Jordanian-U.S. bilateral agreement.

The seminar was attended by public and private sector officials who will be involved in the usage of the grain sorghum once it arrives in early June.

Aiming at self-sufficiency

By Dima Hamarneh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Alongside the rise in prices of imported commodities caused by the devaluation of the Jordanian Dinar stands taller the opportunity for Jordanian industries to produce locally.

The agricultural industry is one of many industries that face this increase in prices. Moreover, some agricultural products have become quite expensive, which makes the feasibility of importing them questionable.

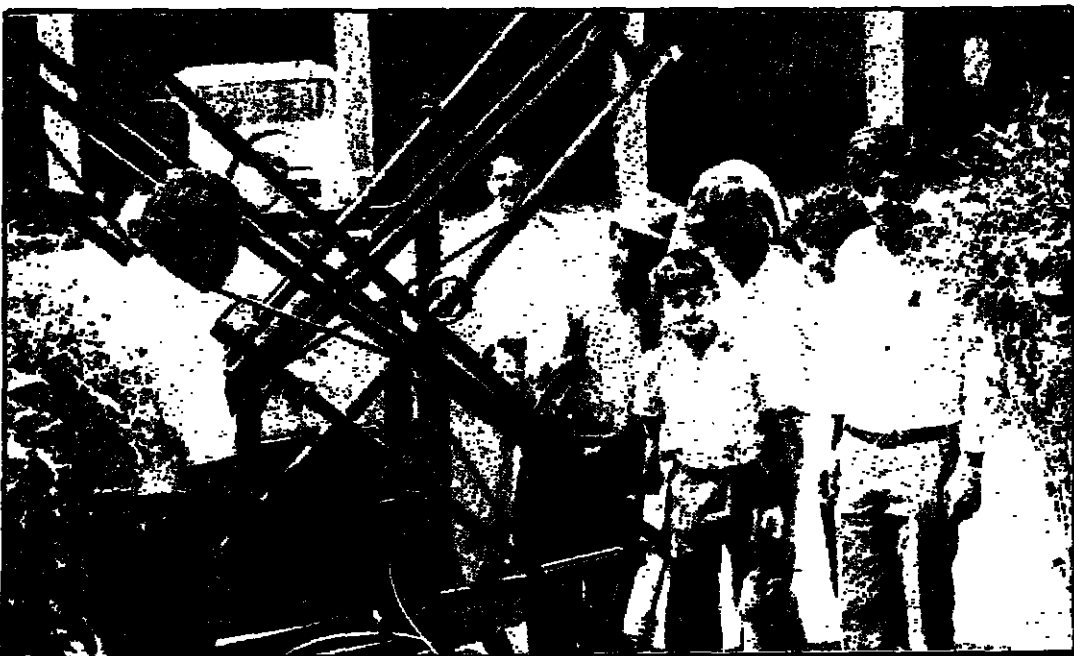
"At this present situation it is worthwhile for agricultural research to play a role in agricultural development," says Acting Director of the Department of Projects at the Ministry of Agriculture Osama Bilbeisi.

Founded in 1985 by the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) is one of the projects that the department comprises.

Functioning as a continuation of the former Department of Agricultural Research and Extension, the NCARTT is composed of a division of research, extension, administration and finances.

"The purpose of the centre is to establish, strengthen, and institutionalise an entity in Jordan for the activities of agricultural research and extension, so that this centre will serve as an umbrella for the various agricultural research agencies in Jordan," Bilbeisi said.

By working hand in hand, the division of research and extension complement each other. The research division contains sections on plant protection, field crops, vegetables, fruits, soil and irrigation, and monitoring and evaluation. The extension division then comes in with a section on transferring this agricultural information and another on demonstrat-



Farmers look at technology's latest developments in agricultural machinery

ing it. Bilbeisi explained that these divisions were established for the generation and development of agricultural technology and for the transfer of this improved technology to the Jordanian farmer. With, he added, "the ultimate purpose of bettering the income of the Jordanian farmer."

Located in Al Baka'a Valley, the NCARTT serves as a nucleus for a network of smaller, regional centres distributed around the kingdom.

"These centres act as mini agricultural research and technology transfer centres," Bilbeisi said. All together, he added, "there are six regional centres; one at Ramtha, Mushagar, Raba, Shoubak, Deir Alla, and one at Khaldieh, commonly known as Dilel."

Jointly financed by the Jordanian government and U.S. Agen-

cy for International Development (USAID) lies one of the main components of the NCARTT, called the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).

"With a capital of \$10 million, this fund finances applied agricultural research and technology transfer projects and is open to every individual and/or agency," Bilbeisi said. So far, he added, "the ADF has financed 14 research projects which all are jointly implemented by the NCARTT and other agencies, namely, the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan."

Along with the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), rises the chance for complementarity among the agricultural research agencies within the four member states.

Bilbeisi explained that cooperation and coordination among the four member states will enhance agricultural research and technology transfer. Moreover, the ACC will act as a catalyst for agricultural development between the whole region and the highly developed countries in both the East and the West.

By holding a close and cooperative relationship with other Arab and international agricultural institutions, the NCARTT maintains a flow of constant exchange of knowledge and experience.

Such a relationship brings forth a ripe harvest for another important relationship existing between the NCARTT and the Jordanian farmer.

"We are constantly trying to develop this relationship with farmers, through recruitment of more extension workers and better extension training," Bilbeisi said.

Open for advice to all citizens, particularly farmers, regarding any farming problems, the NCARTT examines these problems and provides practical solutions to them.

"Farmers are provided with free diagnostic services regarding problems of plant pests and soils. Soil and water analysis is also provided at very reasonable fees," Bilbeisi said. "Accompanying each service report, the

farmer is supplied with a detailed recommendation and suitable advice on how to approach the problem," he added.

Maintaining contact with the farmer however, is a task carried out by a cadre of extension officers positioned in various parts of the kingdom. "Those are the agents entrusted with the technology transfer message," Bilbeisi explained.

Transfer of this message comes in the form of educational leaflets, posters, slides and documentaries.

NCARTT accomplishments

"Through efforts to increase productivity, diversify farm products and introduce exportable agricultural commodities, we can help the agriculture sector lessen the amount of foreign currency used for agricultural imports," Bilbeisi said.

Whereas the former Department of Agricultural Research and Extension was the first to introduce plastic culture in farming vegetables to the Jordanian farmer, the NCARTT has recently developed a lower priced seed drill in comparison to the expensive imported ones.

Bilbeisi mentioned that through the efforts of the NCARTT, Jordan has been able to be rather self-sufficient in potatoes and over supplied in vegetables, whereas a considerable amount of tomatoes and other vegetables are exported.

Along with the introduction of improved varieties of wheat and barley to the Jordanian farmer, the NCARTT also provides the farmer with a package of improved cultural practices.

"Regarding tobacco, which is one of the main crops in Jordan, we have been able to introduce a new variety of Virginian Tobacco called 'Urdun Wahad'," Bilbeisi said.

Bilbeisi said that at present the NCARTT contains an agricultural library which has about 30,000 volumes of agricultural books, journals, and periodicals. "I may say that this is the largest specialised library in Jordan, and more important, it is serving everybody," he added.

Amra Hotel celebrates Ramadan

AMMAN — Amra Hotel in Amman has been holding nightly celebrations since the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, and has been offering customers specially prepared dishes and an assortment of sweets. Peter Rausch, a well seasoned man

with long experience in hotel business, has lately been appointed food and beverage manager at the hotel. Amra plans a special programme by the end of the holy month, according to Amra Hotel sources, who declined to give more details.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by French artist Jean-Francois Noble at Haya Arts Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architectural Development in European Cities," displaying photos depicting architectural development since medieval ages, at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Architecture in Jordanian Country-side" by Ammar Khamash at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of books and handicrafts at Princess Alia College.
- ★ A scientific book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Ties of the Middle East" at the Goethe Institute.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- ★ Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- ★ International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FILMS

- ★ A documentary on Iraqi artist Khaled Rahal at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.
- ★ A French film entitled "Gribouille" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "The Stranger and the Princess" shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

FOLKLORE

- ★ A Performances by folk groups depicting traditional songs and dances at the Roman Amphitheatre down town Amman after 8:00.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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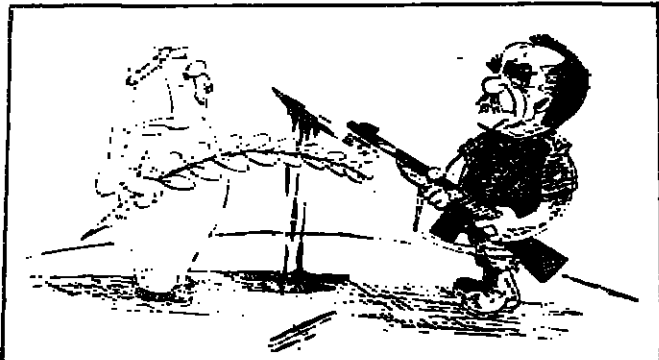
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Silver lining on Lebanon's horizon?

IT IS not surprising that violence in Lebanon hit another peak Tuesday on the eve of the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis Wednesday simply because such is the custom in the strife-torn country that the combatants feel a need to flash a show of strength and flex their muscles (or, more accurately perhaps, missiles) to the mediators as a reminder of their respective prowess. Never mind the wanton deaths, casualties and damage as long as the message gets across, they argue. The innocent civilians caught in-between pay the price at dear terms, and it would seem that the bystanders, in the Arab World and outside, can only muster sympathy with them.

But there is a marked difference this time; it is the boldest yet Arab initiative for peace in Lebanon in over a decade that is expected to emerge from the Tunis meetings. In the cards for the Arab League foreign ministers is an observer force which will supervise a ceasefire in Lebanon and thus set the stage of political negotiations, which, hopefully, will lead to some form of national reconciliation. The scenario looks very bright on the first look, but not so on a second look; such is the vivid backdrop of the numerous mediation efforts that the Arab World and some non-Arab states have exerted in vain to find an end to the bloodbath in Lebanon.

One of the major issues that is expected to figure high in the political negotiations, which Lebanese themselves have to conduct among themselves, is the presence of the Syrian deterrent force in the country. For all practical purposes, the purpose of negotiations would be defeated before they get off the ground if the Lebanese rightists were to demand a Syrian withdrawal before entering into serious, substantial discussions on reforms which lie at the core of the problem, particularly that Muslim leaders find the Syrian presence as vital to their security as long as the situation is not addressed in a just and fair manner. Hence, the task that lies ahead of the Tunis meeting is the unenviable search for a formula which would soothe fears of further bloodshed on both sides. For once, we hope, the rival Lebanese leaders who will eventually sit down to negotiate their future will accept and appreciate the need for eliminating, or at least keeping in check, the mutual suspicion that has built up and strengthened over the years. The six-member Arab League committee has done a commendable job in convincing the Lebanese right that the panel is working towards protecting the interests of everyone concerned in Lebanon. That in itself is an excellent start, and we hope the Arab drive to put a firm end to the carnage in Lebanon would be crowned with success.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday commented on His Majesty King Hussein's address to the secretaries general of the various ministries to whom he entrusted the affairs of their respective departments until a new government has been set up in the country. The paper said that the King's address came at a critical moment in our march towards progress and development, and served as an incentive for all citizens to work diligently and in cohesion to achieve the common goals. Indeed, the process of reorganisation and revision at this moment should be carried out by all citizens and responsible persons in the government so that all negative aspects and unacceptable actions could be removed for good, and positive steps taken in their place. The paper said that all members of the Jordanian family are partners in the process of construction and development and all have a responsibility to work together and achieve the national goals.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily says that the resignation of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai ended a difficult era in Jordan's history; but the events that happened in the past week should be the focus of our study. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the regrettable incidents in the past week followed long and deep social developments and were not preceded by any form of communication between the people and the government due to the absence of parliament. The writer says King Hussein did well in accepting the government's resignation to defuse the situation, and brought back optimism to the hearts of the Jordanian people by announcing that he will deal with the root causes of the whole issue. The King's stand with regard to this issue, the writer notes, has brought back hope and paved the way for the formation of a new government that would lead the way towards collective and diligent efforts towards serving the country's highest interests.

Al Dustour daily referred to the King's call on all citizens in general and the secretaries general of various ministries in particular to make a comprehensive review of the situation, and enable the country to confront and deal with the challenges. The paper said that the King's address to the secretaries general served as a message to the whole nation, and one that was directed to each citizen urging him or her to do all they can to serve the national interest. The coming stage, the paper added, will be characterised with reorganisation and reform, and will require diligence and sincere endeavours so that the national objectives can be achieved.

'1984'-1992: From fiction to reality

By Riad Al Khouri

AN older generation looked forward in trepidation to 1984; the world today is talking about 1992 as a watershed after which an economically united Europe will emerge as a superpower. Orwell's 1984 was fiction and his pessimistic vision failed to materialise. But 1992 is real-dream for some and nightmare for others. The 12-nation European market should be the world's biggest. Will it go on to gobble up others in an orgy of dynamism and challenge the rest of the world? Or do Europeans plan to lay back and lazily enjoy the fruits of their prosperity? The key to this crucial issue is West Germany. As the biggest European economic power, German moves will set the pace for the 11 other states.

But there are signs that the country may be lapsing into a quiet middle age. In the words of Josef Joffe writing in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, "the West Germans have grown cautious, self-satisfied and complacent. The motto they have come to adopt is boring is beautiful." The Federal Republic, blessed with clean cities, widespread prosperity, exemplary social security and democratic institutions, is the best Germany ever. Yet there can be no ignoring the weakness.

The unemployment bedrock has been around for so long that it now goes almost unnoticed. Economic growth has for years been

at about two per cent, as against five per cent in the 60s.

Companies bank their cash reserves or transfer them abroad rather than into local industry or commerce. They are not keen on investing domestically. "Unit production costs in Germany have increased much faster than in Britain, Japan or the United States," Joffe argues. Has the country of the post-war economic miracle run out of steam? Comparisons of the 80s with 50s underscore the difference. The period of Adenauer nowadays sound revolutionary. It did more than rebuild a shattered country: Social faults were set right. Twelve million refugees were integrated and traditional markets forfeited to the East were offset in the West. (Today's leading German firms have billions in the bank and complain of saturated markets.) Predictability and protection of accrued rights and privileges have emerged as the common denominator of a country that directly or indirectly plunges into subsidies over three times more important than defence spending.)

This new inertia is partly understandable: In a lifetime the Germans underwent more shocks than others have suffered in centuries. Wilhelm II, Weimar, Hitler, Ulbricht and Adenauer stand for five political creeds while two world wars swept aside the

previous system (not to mention bouts of inflation in 1923 that sent a brutal wind of change through the establishment). Yet greater flexibility could be introduced in a country where social safeguards are superb.

Privileges such as legislation that protects workers rights is of no use to the unemployed waiting their turn to jump on the bandwagon.

When things were better, employers preferred to pay overtime rather than hire extra staff-virtually impossible to fire when business got tough.

There is no mistaking the trend toward a leisure society, but what use is leisure when things are not available to the poor? Macroeconomic tools have lost their cutting edge; not even powerful financial pills can ensure the recovery of shipyards, but merely boost inflation in boom cities. Yet reforms in companies and markets call for courage and a readiness to fight.

Protected spheres should be thrown open to competition and tried and trusted arrangements relaxed. The aim must be to make the idea of change socially acceptable. As Europe and the World adjust to 1992, powerful change will be necessary for economic survival and prosperity, even in Germany.

Chile faces uphill road to civilian rule

By Eduardo Gallardo
The Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile — Chile is emerging from 16 years of authoritarian rule, but the future civilian government will take over under the shadow of a powerful military that unabashedly declares itself ready to retake power.

And although the lame-duck military government leaves a growing and stable economy, it also is bequeathing deep and potentially explosive social imbalances.

Chileans are scheduled to elect a president Dec. 14 for the first time in almost two decades. Military President Augusto Pinochet, who led a bloody 1973 coup, is to hand over power to the winner next March 11.

Opposition parties plan to agree on a single candidate, with Christian Democratic leader Patricio Aylwin considered the most likely nominee. Recent opinion polls give him an edge over any pro-government candidate.

Pinochet and other military leaders have made it clear they do not plan a complete retreat from the political scene. He recently

said they are obligated to ensure the future president is "an authentic democratic man." The military vowed to intervene again if the order it forged is altered radically.

"If the institutional order is broken, the armed forces have the duty to restore it, using compulsion and all the necessary means," Gen. Alejandro Medina, head of a centre of strategic studies, warned in a recent lecture to non-commissioned officers.

Civilian politicians complain that the armed forces are assuming the role of "armed guardians" of the future government.

A 1980 constitution gives the military the means for such a role. It allows Pinochet, who heads the army, and the commanders of the navy, air force and national police to keep their posts until 1998.

Pinochet, who is constitutionally prohibited from seeking reelection, has said he will remain as army commander after the balloting.

That is tantamount to "creating an armed state within an unarmed democratic state," said Genero Arriagada, vice president

of the centrist Christian Democrats, the largest opposition group.

The constitution also established a military-dominated national council, which may "represent" its views to the civilian government on key matters.

Pinochet has said he is willing to consider some constitutional reforms sought by his critics, but no progress has been reported in talks on the subject.

More complicated for future authorities may be the problem of human-rights violations during military rule. Opposition leaders say that should they win the election, they will investigate the abuses and try those found responsible.

After taking power, the military launched a severe repression. Thousands of leftists were arrested, many were sent into exile and hundreds were killed.

Local and foreign human-rights groups have documented more than 700 cases of dissidents who disappeared after being arrested.

But the military has warned it will not accept reprisals for what it sees as actions that were part of a war.

A recent nationwide opinion poll taken by the Centre for Public Studies, an independent research institute, shows Chileans are more interested in their personal economic situation than in the political complexities of the process to restore civilian rule or the military threats.

Of those polled, 46 per cent mentioned low salaries and inefficient public-health services as priorities for the future government. Another 45 per cent cited unemployment, which the government says stands at 5.9 per cent. Private economists say the real figure is closer to 17 per cent.

The new government will inherit a healthier economy than those left by other South American military regimes that have given way to civilian rule in recent years. For five years, the economy has grown steadily while inflation has been strictly controlled, totalling less than 13 per cent in 1988.

In contrast, inflation soared to 1,300 per cent in neighbouring Peru, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America, a United Nations agency. It reached 800 per cent Brazil and

175 per cent in Argentina, two nations where civilian governments replaced long-lasting military regimes in 1985.

But critics of Chile's rigid free-market policies say the benefits have eluded millions of poor, creating the potential for social unrest and, therefore, a serious threat to the restoration of democracy.

The critics contend that the purchasing power of the poor has been severely reduced. The legal minimum wage stands at the equivalent of \$59 a month, 35 per cent lower than in 1981, according to the Centre for Studies on Development, a private research institute.

But Ernesto Throni, an economist at the centre, says 33 per cent of the nation's labour force of 4.5 million make less than that. "A family of four needs \$145 a month for food alone," he said.

Agusto Aninat, another researcher at the centre, said 38 per cent of Chile's 12 million people live below the poverty line and that 22 per cent, "must be considered in extreme poverty."

Responsible for the economic programme is Hernan Buchi, 40,

who resigned this month as finance minister to consider running for president.

"We sought to minimise the social cost in making the changes," he said.

Under Buchi, the government renegotiated its \$19-billion foreign debt — the fourth-highest in South America — and has paid only interest since 1986. Repayment of principal is due to resume next year.

Furthermore, the government has effectively reduced the debt by \$2.9 billion since 1987, a unique case in South America, through a system of re-purchasing debt from creditors in Chilean pesos which then can be invested in the country.

The government says the money it borrowed was invested in a variety of development projects, including a major hydroelectric plant, roads and completion of a subway in Santiago. But the strategy has attracted criticism from dissident economists.

"What the government did was kicking payments ahead, leaving yet another burden to the future democratic government," Aninat said.

Turkey seeks foreign investment

By John Owen-Davies
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey hopes to lure foreign investment at a major arms fair next month to bolster its forces guarding a third of NATO's border with Warsaw Pact countries.

"Our aim is to cooperate with NATO countries and other friendly countries in the defence business," said Vahit Erdem, head of the Defence Industry Development Administration (DIDA).

Some 200 firms from 30 countries, including Britain, the United States, China, Iran, Iraq, Oman, Romania and Pakistan, are expected at the International Defence Equipment and Avionics (IDEA '89) exhibition in Ankara May 2-6, Erdem told Reuters.

"Eventually some business can be expected in the shape of investment ... (the exhibition) will help business in the defence area between Turkey and other countries," he said.

Turkey, already co-producing 152 U.S.-designed F-16 jets, hopes to start joint production next year of armoured troop carriers with FMC Corporation of the United States, and high-frequency army radios with Britain's Marconi, Erdem said.

"Total procurement volume of the projects we are working on is about six or seven billion dollars. Our main purpose is to modernise the armed forces, not to be an exporter," he added.

The programme is given high priority in Turkey, which has the largest armed forces in NATO's European theatre and borders the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Other planned projects include electronic warfare equipment for F-16s, mobile radar and low-level air defence systems, transport aircraft, helicopters and rocket launchers.

Turkey's navy, operating in the Black and Aegean seas and the eastern Mediterranean, wants modern minesweepers as well as more frigates and submarines to replace ageing vessels.

DIDA was established in 1985 to coordinate a defence procurement fund outside the national budget. Officials said the fund had accumulated \$500 million a year on average.

The modernisation programme, which started with F-16s in 1984, is set to continue through the next decade in Turkey, which still uses some World War Two-vintage equipment.

"In the past we tried to meet our requirements through direct

acquisition but ... it put a heavy burden on the economy," said Erdem, adding Turkey received only limited military aid.

Erdem said a consortium led by FMC Corporation, which signed a contract worth about \$1 billion early in 1988 for at least 1,700 armoured troops carriers, was likely to start co-production in Turkey by the end of next year.

"In each project there is a serious offset support commitment. For the armoured personnel carriers there is \$400 million of direct offset commitment," he said.

Erdem said Turkey might sign a firm contract, worth some \$170 million, with Marconi in the next three months for army radios and that production was also likely to start in 1990.

A decision is likely this year on a contract worth at least \$100 million for fire-control systems for Turkey's Oerlikon anti-aircraft guns, he added. Britain's Racal, the Swiss firm Contraves and Holland-Signaal are competing.

Rafsanjani emerging stronger

By Eric Hall
Reuters

DUBAI — Suddenly, Rafsanjani is back as the most powerful political name in Iran after Khomeini.

Only a couple of weeks after his start seemed to be waning, parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Rafsanjani has bounced back as the man most likely to gather supreme presidential power and end Iran's political chaos, Iranian and Western analysts say.

The latest events challenge the assumption that so-called hardliners were back in power in Iran. Ten years ago, Iran's Islamic revolutionaries replaced the Shah's widely-hated government with an administration of different clerical factions, each vying for Khomeini's approval of their ideas.

But Iran's 86-year-old leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, is increasingly concerned with his vision of an Islamic utopia and has consistently declined to take sides over mundane but pressing social and economic questions, the analysts said.

"People are tired of the uncertainty and infighting, and now the leaders are getting tired too," said one Iranian analyst.

The latest round of uncertainty began in March when Khomeini sacked his designated spiritual successor Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri and blasted those leaders and factions who he believed were taking Iran away from the path of Islamic fundamentalism.

The move was seen as a defeat for those who wanted Iran to open more to the outside world and a victory for hardliners.

Rafsanjani's power is based upon his control of about 70 per cent of the vote in parliament and his position as acting Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, deputising for Khomeini.

He supported moves to restore ties with the West after the war with Iraq, which ended last August, and has long pressed for economic reforms to improve Iran's economy, devastated by years of fighting in the Gulf.

His position, therefore, appeared uncertain after Khomeini's attack against the evils of the West and liberalism. But last week, Rafsanjani, one

of the few men able to speak to Khomeini face-to-face, asked the Ayatollah to do-away with the post of prime minister, now held by so-called hardliner Mir-Hossein Mousavi, and replace it with a system of presidential deputies.

Rafsanjani was tipped as next president before Montazeri's removal and is now the only obvious candidate for the scheduled elections in August, the analysts said.

However, a Western diplomat emphasised that Khomeini's use of power could be unpredictable.

"Khomeini's power is still a wild card. I he chooses, all bets could be off again," he said.

More than 130 members of parliament have urged Khomeini to amend the constitution where it pertains to his spiritual successor, the judiciary and executive.

"The text of the constitution in the said areas has some major flaws which would have to be amended, or else the normal operation of state affairs would suffer badly," they said in a letter to Khomeini.

On Saturday, parliamentarian Ali Akbar Nafq Nouri said parliament wanted the jobs of prime minister and president merged.

Rafsanjani had not lately been prominent at the important weekly Friday prayers, used often as a platform for major political statements.

But he emerged Friday to tell crowds in Tehran of a large roundup of U.S. spies in Iran. Iranian sources close to senior members of parliament listed a likely future Council of Presidential Deputies.

They said names to watch would be current President Ali Khamenei, Chief Justice Ayatollah Abdol Karim Mousavi Ardebili, an Islamic expert Ahmad Jannati.

Mohammad Reza Mahdavi Kani, formerly acting prime minister, interior minister and generally regarded as a troubleshooter, could have an important future role, they said.

The less well-known but powerful Ayatollah Ali Meshkini, Friday prayers leader in the holy city of Qom and father in law of Internal Security Minister Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshtahi, should also be watched, they said.

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A river changes course

By Cherie Hart

IT was a simple purchase in a local aquarium shop — a plant to keep the tropical fish company. But like the scenario of a science fiction movie, the weed grew to deadly proportions. The Sepik River people of Papua New Guinea call it "garas nogut" — grass no good. In parts of the vast plains in the northern region, the plant is called the "priest's flower" after the man who accidentally introduced it to the area. Whatever its name, no one could have predicted the devastation it would bring.

As the story goes, a missionary used the plant in his fish tank in the early 1970s. After the weed grew too big, he emptied the tank, weeds and all, into the Sepik, the world's sixth largest river. In so doing, he unwittingly unleashed a scourge of biblical proportions.

The fast-growing weed soon choked off fishing. Once-navigable waters became so dense with the new growth that canoes were stalled. The plant even became an offensive weapon when some villagers planted it in the lagoons of neighbours with whom they were feuding. With its rapid growth and ability to quickly cover an open water surface, the weed — known as *Salvinia molesta* — afflicted the lives of over 80,000 people living along the banks of the Sepik River. Many believed the plant attacked their waterways in retaliation for past sins.

In 1980, the Government of Papua New Guinea turned to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) for help. An aquatic weed expert was dispatched to plan an eradication campaign. Booms were constructed to halt further spread of *Salvinia molesta*. Aerial spraying was attempted, but did not offer a long-term solution. Most of the weeds on the surface died. But they were soon replaced by submerged plants that were not reached by the spray. By 1981, it was obvious that a

new approach was called for. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joined FAO in launching a long-range project aimed at biological control of the fernlike plant. The venture soon drew additional support from the Australian-based Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

A small beetle, known as the *Cyrtobagous salviniae*, was identified by Donald Sands, an Australian entomologist, as a devourer of numerous water plants. Mr. Sands believed that a weed like *Salvinia molesta* could be controlled more efficiently and safely by biological agents rather than chemical ones.

He proved his point. Less than two years after the beetles were introduced, more than two million tonnes of *Salvinia molesta* were destroyed. By the end of 1985, the weed had been brought fully under control. As the beetles in each lagoon ate their own food supply, they eventually became extinct.

The project's success sparked the beginning of an even greater United Nations involvement in improving the Sepik's fish yields. The Fisheries Division of the Papua New Guinea Government had long been studying the river's fish species. David Coates, a fisheries scientist from the United Kingdom, who was involved in this early work in 1981, found that the yield of fish from the floodplain of the Sepik was only about ten per cent of that in similar rivers on other continents. "When we realised the Sepik's yield was only about 5,000 tonnes a year, compared to similar African rivers with 45,000 tonnes a year, we figured something strange was going on here," recalls Coates. "In some of the streams in the Highlands, there were no fish at all. Geologically speaking, the Sepik is a young river. Large numbers of freshwater fish have not had time to evolve."

To hasten that evolution, the government turned to UNDP for

technical assistance in launching a fish stock enhancement project. Coates became the project's Chief Technical Adviser.

The Sepik, with its basin population of 350,000 people, was a prime area for stocking. But the scientific team added a new twist to the globally accepted technique of introducing freshwater fish into the Sepik. "This became the first river in the world to be methodically researched in advance to determine which species would be most appropriate for it," says Jan Wahlberg, the UNDP Resident Representative in Papua New Guinea. "This unprecedented project could well become a case study for stocking waterways all over the globe."

UNDP has earmarked \$984,200 for the four-year project, which is being carried out by FAO. The effort, which began in 1986, aims to avoid past mistakes made in other parts of the world, such as in East Africa's Lake Victoria, which was stocked in the late 1970s with Nile perch. The perch then devoured many smaller fish which local villagers had relied on for centuries for food. By extensively researching the types of fish already present in the Sepik River, biologists hope to reduce the risk of introducing predators which threaten native species. Says Coates: "While it's obvious that new fish should be put into the river network, we have to ensure that we keep ecological disturbances to a minimum."

No one doubts that there is an urgent need for boosting fish yields. Severe protein deficiency is a problem among villages along the Sepik, with malnutrition affecting as much as 75 per cent of the population. The main diet is based on carbohydrates from the sweet potato and taro. Local residents eat every bit of protein they can find, including grasshoppers and birds, but still suffer from protein deficiency. Ironically, empty tin cans of mackerel imported from Japan litter many villages along the river. "If they

had more fish, they'd eat them," says Paul Van Zweiten, a Dutch fisheries scientist working on the project.

Exploring the mountainous interior of Papua New Guinea is no easy task for fisheries scientists. The country is one of the world's least-known regions. David Dudgeon, a project-supported ecologist who is studying the available fish-food sources in the Sepik, recounts a close call he had one night when he was in a boat in one of the river's tributaries. "We were getting ready to batten down for sleep," recalls Mr. Dudgeon. "Suddenly, the boat began to take water. I lit a lantern and noticed several pairs of eyes staring back at us from the water. We were surrounded by crocodiles. We pumped water from the boat and escaped, just barely, to a safer anchorage."

To catch fish samples, biologists set up a net spanning the width of the river. Several hundred metres upstream, they pour a milky solution into the water, composed of rotenone, a plant extract. When the fish swim through the mixture, their gills close up and they die. Carried downstream and caught in the net, these fish are then collected for analysis. Patience is an asset. Three hours of this painstaking process can result in a catch of only a dozen fish.

More than sixty such field trips up and down the Sepik have been undertaken in the past half year. After another year of collecting samples, scientists will have a complete picture of the numbers, type and location of the local fish and the food they eat. From that data, researchers will be able to determine the most appropriate species with which to stock the river.

"We travel with buckets and shovels and collect what we can with bare hands. It's basic, but it works," says Mr. Dudgeon. "We are doing work never before undertaken anywhere in the world. I feel I'm part of a team that is making scientific history."



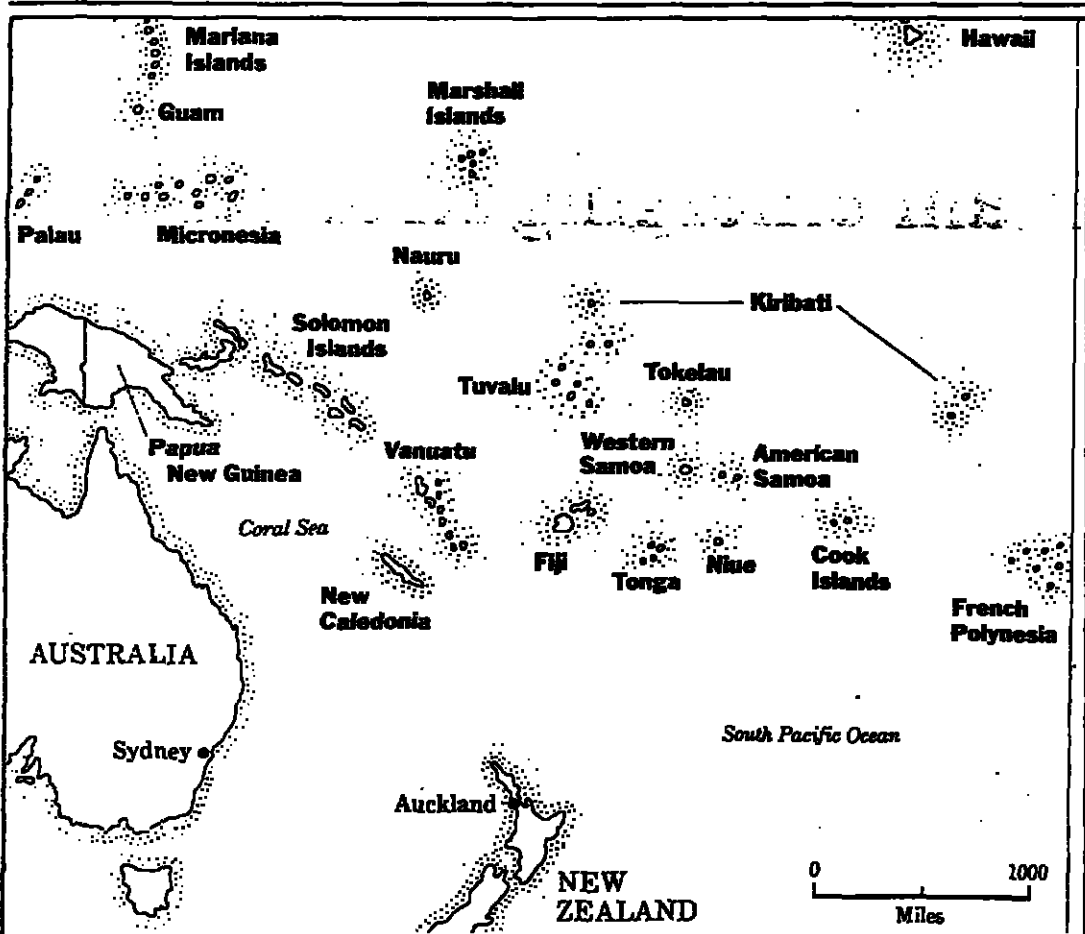
Setting a net for catching scarce fish samples in the Sepik River.



A fisherman is lucky to catch enough for a family-sized meal.



A Highlands village prepares to feast on an eel.



Marshall Islands considers importing non-toxic U.S. waste

By Cliff Johnson
Reuter

MAJURO, Marshall Islands — The people of these low-lying Pacific islands believe there is a way to beat the "greenhouse effect" — if pollution makes the ice caps melt and the seas rise, build the land higher with garbage.

While countries around the world are giving a thumbs-down to the international trade in waste, the Marshall Islands see profit and possible salvation from a plan to import up to one-tenth of the non-toxic waste produced on the U.S. West Coast.

The waste would be used as landfill to enlarge the chain of remote and low-lying atolls. The Marshall Islands would also get millions of dollars in fees for taking the rubbish.

The nation's parliament passed a resolution in March authorising President Amata Kabua to negotiate a deal with a California-based company to ship millions of tonnes of rubbish.

Several other Pacific islands have turned down similar deals offered by U.S. firms to dispose of waste.

Admiralty Pacific Inc, a waste disposal company, hopes to begin transporting garbage to the Marshalls, 4,200 miles southwest of the United States, by June 1990 and eventually ship tens of millions of tonnes a year.

Kabua, who first endorsed the scheme last October after meeting Admiralty officials, says he wants the garbage for the money and for badly needed landfill in the archipelago.

The atolls cover a 27 square kilometres area. Few islands rise more than 1.5 metres above the sea.

The Marshalls could be submerged if environmentalists' predictions prove accurate that global warming from the pollution-induced "greenhouse effect" could raise the world's sea levels by more than five metres over the next 60 years.

Most of the world's nations

reached agreement March 22 in Basle, Switzerland, on an international treaty to control the export of hazardous waste.

The convention was intended to curb what African countries called "garbage imperialism," or dumping of waste by the West in the Third World.

Admiralty's owner, Dan Fleming, says the company will respect Majuro and Washington safety laws in shipping the waste to the Pacific nation, an operation he says will be cheaper than transporting it by land to other parts of the United States.

Imported waste is not a new concept to the 43,000 inhabitants of the Marshall Islands, a double chain of low-lying Coral Atolls that Washington used as a nuclear testing site in the 1950s.

Some 66 nuclear weapons were exploded on Bikini and Eniwetok Atolls at that time and some areas are still uninhabitable owing to radiation contamination.

The Marshalls was a former

United Nations trust territory administered by Washington until gaining autonomy in 1986. It depends on U.S. aid for 90 per cent of its government budget and Washington controls military activities.

Members of Majuro's parliament hotly debated the resolution on the Garbage Plan before passing it March 10 by a 20-to-3 majority. Critics raised fears the Marshalls might unknowingly end up importing toxic waste.

Senator Hiroshi Yamamura, who represents an island contaminated by radioactive fallout from the 1950s testing, said Majuro had no way to be sure the waste was safe.

"Do we really trust the Americans?" he asked in parliament. "How can we know that the so-called household garbage is non-toxic waste?"

Senator Tony Debrum said: "More than 40 nations have turned down the U.S. offer regarding the dumping proposal. Why should the Marshall Islands

accept it?" In the past year, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Tonga have turned down a variety of waste disposal and incineration schemes proposed by American firms.

The environmentalist group Greenpeace estimates a tonne of American household garbage contains 20 pounds of toxic material, such as cleaning fluids, lead-based paints and pesticides, and that their removal would make a deal like the one proposed by Admiralty unprofitable.

President Kabua, who hopes to earn as much as \$56 million a year importing the rubbish, and his cousin and sponsor of the resolution, Senator Imata Kabua, said Majuro could hire scientists to evaluate the safety of the plan. The Majuro government says the plan still depends on the completion of environmental, landfill and other studies to see if it will benefit the Marshall Islands.

Are spreading deserts just a mirage?



IN the last ten years the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP) has spent billions of dollars in its attempts to hold back what has been seen as an unrelenting movement of the world's deserts.

In Africa the Sahara is said to have spread south at an average rate of six kilometres a year, engulfing villages and valuable farmland.

U.N. reports suggest that as much as 35 per cent of the world's land surface is at risk of desertification, with 21 million hectares a year being lost to shifting sands. The cost in terms of lost food production is put at a staggering \$26 billion a year.

The idea of deserts on the march is a well-established part of popular belief. But could it be a mirage? A growing body of scientific opinion believes that it is. These sceptics say the UNEP's

efforts have been sustained on false premise and questionable statistics that have become enshrined as institutional fact. They claim that much of the evidence of desertification is based on questionnaires sent to governments by the UNEP in 1982 — at the height of a massive African drought which might have made temporarily arid land seem like permanent desert encroachment.

No guidelines are said to have been offered to enable African officials to define desertification. Moreover, some geographers point out that the oft-quoted 35 per cent of world land surface allegedly at risk is already arid for a variety of reasons — and at least half of that land is too arid for any form of agriculture.

The extent of African desertification from an inexorably encroaching Sahara is also in question.

A U.N. conference in Nairobi in 1977 raised African fears by asserting that the Sahara had spread south by 100 kilometres between 1958 and 1975. And to counter a perceived threat, countries such as Mali, Algeria, Sudan and Somalia planned a vast trans-Saharan green belt, a physical barrier of millions of trees against the tidal sand.

But the 1975 estimate is now challenged by geographers at University College, London.

They argue that the desert's edge in 1958 was calculated on limited data from weather stations and could provide no more than an estimated positions. Moreover the survey covered a period of drought which could have resulted in wrong conclusions being drawn.

Deep divisions have also emerged among scientists about the exact meaning of desertifica-

tion. It is accepted that new deserts are forming in some parts of the world, and that throughout history shifting sand dunes have engulfed settlements.

But the evidence of satellite studies of the Sahara is that while between 1982 and 1984 the Sahel "vegetation front" moved southwards, the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 saw a reversal of this trend. In other words, the desert itself retreated.

Vegetation quickly returns to parts of the Sahara when rainfall resumes. The unknown factors now are whether the droughts that have hit Africa in recent years form part of a new global climatic pattern, and to what extent are the "greenhouse effect" and the puncturing of the Earth's protective ozone layer influencing these trends? — Lion features.



<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>THE BOSS WIFE</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 675573</p> <p>OPERA</p> <p>BOB GOLD THWAIT IN BURGLAR</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Cinema Tel: 677420</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>PICK UP ARTIST</p> <p>Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.</p>
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Arab report sees low oil prices through 1990s

ABU DHABI (R) — The economies of both oil-producing and poorer Arab states will continue to suffer into the 1990's from the effects of low oil prices, according to an authoritative economic report made available Tuesday.

"Expectations indicate the oil market will show no considerable improvement in the next few years, a fact that carries serious implications for Arab states," said the report.

Oil prices jumped several dollars in the weeks since the 1989 report went for final approval, due to agreed output cuts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a major U.S. oil spill, and closure of a British output line.

But world prices are still way

below the \$40 per barrel highs which caused the Arab economic boom of the 1970s.

Meanwhile, depressed prices have already caused a 51 per cent fall in oil revenues from five years ago, said the report, compiled by the 21-nation Arab League, the Arab Monetary Fund, the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Oil prices have dropped sharply in recent years and the report

calculates that in real terms, accounting for inflation, oil dropped in 1986 to 60 per cent of its 1974 value, although it recovered to 70 per cent in 1987.

"Considering the slowdown in growth of world oil consumption and continuing rises in supplies from outside OPEC, low oil prices are expected to continue until the early 1990's," the report said.

The decline has hit government spending which remains the driving force behind development in Arab states because alternative sources of income remain restricted, it said.

Lower aid

The decline in oil revenues will

affect all Arab countries because states which produce little or no oil depend on aid from oil producers.

In the next few years, world energy demand is projected to grow at about three per cent while demand for oil only is forecast to grow one to two per cent, the report said.

The report said energy consumption in non-communist industrial countries grew 1.8 per cent in 1987 over 1986, while demand in non-Arab developing nations grew 2.7 per cent.

"The growth in the industrial world was disappointing as most experts expected the decline in oil prices to push up demand considerably," it said.

Reduced spending

One of the most serious effects of the oil price fall is the collapse in total Arab budget balance to a \$21.4 billion surplus in 1987 from \$143 billion in 1986, it said.

"This has resulted in less spending on development and, if this trend continues, then Arab development efforts will be obstructed at a time when real Arab economic growth is also slowing," it said.

"What adds to the problem is

that the investment boom in the 1970s was not accompanied by a parallel increase in non-oil revenues because most of the money was put into infrastructure projects where the return is indirect and takes a long time to emerge," the report noted.

Population pressures

Although much of the infrastructure is now in place, continuous maintenance and expansion due to population pressures will continue to suck in investment funds, it said.

The report said that in 1987 there were 202 million Arabs with a 56.5 million workforce. Two million extra jobs will be needed by the year 2000, at a cost of \$5,000 in capital to create each extra job, it said.

But Arab capital investments are falling, to \$93.1 billion in 1987 from \$94.5 billion in 1986, and the less-populated oil producers had the bulk of that at \$69.7 billion in 1987, the report said.

Reforms

Higher economic growth will depend on economic reforms, rationalisation, and solving the problem of indebted Arab na-

tions, the report said.

Higher output

In another area, world oil prices eased Monday on talk in the market that some OPEC members may be increasing their supply because of a North Sea accident last week which has shut down about a quarter of British output, traders said.

North Sea crudes were quoted around \$21.25 to \$21.50 a barrel, more than 50 cents down from three-year highs touched last week just after the gas explosion on North Sea pumping platform Cormorant Alpha.

Monday's prices were 25 to 30 cents below levels at the same time Friday.

Traders said prices weakened because of reports that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and possibly Nigeria may be producing more.

"OPEC has reacted immediately by increasing production," said a source with an Italian refiner.

Traders and shipping sources reported a start of at least four tankers in the past week to lift oil from West Africa.

Nigeria is a source of petrol-rich sweet crudes like those from the North Sea, which are in strong demand because the petrol mar-

ket is tight both in the United States and Europe.

But Nigerian officials said Nigeria was not exceeding its OPEC-assigned supply quota.

Some industry sources in the Gulf said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait had sold oil out of floating storage in recent weeks and London shipping sources said Saudi Arabia had chartered seven vessels and Kuwait six, possibly to replenish stocks.

Gulf sources said Kuwaiti well-head output was expected to average around 1.7 million barrels per day in April, up by a substantial 300,000 barrels daily from March.

Some OPEC nations, particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, would probably be happy to see prices ease, analysts said, as they are concerned that high prices may depress future demand.

"I think this may be an effort to cool the market down a bit," said Steve Turner with London brokers Smith New Court.

Another reason for some OPEC nations to supply more oil, or at least put it into floating storage, could be to strengthen their hands ahead of a meeting on June 5 to set new quotas for the 13 members for the second half of 1989.

The extent to which members of OPEC exceed assigned quotas is hard to judge.

OPEC sets quotas on the basis of supply including movement out of but not into stocks, rather than wellhead output.

Quiet sales

European traders also said it would be very difficult to get early details of any sales out of storage as they would be done quietly with major oil companies.

The biggest Western majors, the Royal Dutch/Shell Group and Exxon Corp of the United States, are the companies which have lost most of the production shut in by the accident at Cormorant Alpha, which was pumping nearly 472,000 barrels daily.

The latest word from their joint operating company, Shell Expro, is that it still cannot say when pumping will resume. British Energy Secretary Cecil Parkinson last Thursday raised the possibility of an interruption of "four to six weeks."

Towards the close of European business, the U.S. benchmark crude West Texas Intermediate was unchanged at \$21.20 a barrel. Mid-east Dubai stood 25 cents lower at \$17.40.

West Germans welcome plan to end unpopular tax

BONN (R) — West German Finance Minister Theo Waigel won backing from all three coalition parties Tuesday for his plan to scrap an unpopular investment earnings tax, a move welcomed by the business community.

The three parties in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right coalition backed the abolition of the 10 per cent withholding tax a senior politician told reporters after a coalition meeting.

Asked if Waigel still planned to scrap the tax over objections from the Bundesbank and leading financial figures, Alfred Dregger, parliamentary floor leader of Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) said "yes", but gave

no details.

West Germany's banking community, unsettled by two weeks of uncertainty about the future of the tax, breathed a sigh of relief at news of its impending abolition.

"The decision is clearly positive for West Germany as a financial centre," said Klaus Wierner, chief economist at Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale.

Richard Reid, chief European economist at Phillips and Drew said the scrapping of the tax would be positive for Waigel at the start of his career as finance minister.

"He has asserted his authority early on and (the move) will be

read positively for his standing in the coalition," he said.

But Norbert Vowinkel, economist at Bank in Liechtenstein (Frankfurt) GmbH, said uncertainty would not be totally removed from the markets until the European Community decided whether to impose a withholding tax in all its member states.

Waigel's rejection of the tax appeared to bring West Germany in line with countries like Britain and Luxembourg, which are against proposals by the European Commission to impose a 15 per cent withholding tax on all 12 member states.

The 10 per cent tax applies to domestic earnings as well as investment earnings and is levied at source by banks.

Its introduction in January, 1989, drove investors out of West Germany into tax havens such as Luxembourg, weakening the usually strong mark.

Although Waigel has given no indication when the tax could be abolished, coalition sources said July 1 this year or January, 1990, were two dates under consideration.

The sources said the coalition agreed to end the tax partly because the state's income from taxation was turning out to be higher than expected and partly because of its unpopularity.

Waigel's predecessor at the finance ministry, Gerhard Stoltenberg, had hoped the tax would raise 4.3 billion marks (\$1.8 billion) to help finance tax cuts.

The Bundesbank, West Germany's central bank, and five leading economic research institutes have spoken against repealing the tax despite its unpopularity.

Bundesbank President Karl Otto Poehl had thought an abolition unlikely because it would create legal uncertainty.

Frankfurt bankers believed Poehl was worried that the Bonn government could lose credibility by getting rid of the tax so soon after imposing it.

Admitting mistakes is strength

But Peter Pietsch, economist at Commerzbank A.G. said: "I think it's a sign of political strength to admit to a mistake."

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Kuwait to try unit trusts to boost stock market

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait is to allow its banks and investment companies to issue unit trusts to try to breathe life into a sluggish stock exchange, financial sources said Tuesday.

Bankers say a pool of hundreds of millions of dollars exists that could potentially be tapped from smaller investors with few places to put their money other than traditional time deposits.

Under legislation, yet to be

approved by the cabinet, the financial institutions would be able to sell units to the public to buy Kuwaiti shares and real estate and to invest overseas.

The sources said the legislation had been approved by the ministry of commerce and industry and the central bank and should be approved by the cabinet within a month or two.

The funds, to be listed on the stock exchange, would create de-

mand for shares in a market that has limped along since 1982, when a crash in share prices left investors paralysed in a twisted net of billions of dinars of unpaid debts.

The crash was caused by wild speculation financed in part by post-dated cheques at the height of the oil boom and plunged Kuwait into recession.

Local unit trusts, or mutual

funds, which invest in various securities the combined contributions from many people and pays them dividends in proportion to their holdings, have not been allowed in Kuwait, although some finance companies have been unofficially combining and channelling small investors' money, the sources said.

Some banks have set up funds through offshore companies, bankers said.

Investors complain that since the crash of the stock exchange, or "Souq Al Manakh", the market has been hindered by over-regulation and excessive government intervention.

In an effort to support debt-ridden companies and share prices, the government over the last few years has built up its own portfolio to the point where it now owns more than 50 per cent of the capital of listed companies.

Some 20 to 30 per cent of shares never changes hands, the sources said, adding that government support had caused many

companies now listed to become far overvalued compared to their performance.

The sources said the authorities hoped that with the introduction of unit trusts, fund managers seeking profitable investments would encourage new companies to make public share flotations and list themselves on the exchange.

"The government hopes the funds will improve professionalism of share trading and bring small new companies in to replace the bad," said one market analyst.

The sources said 75 per cent of each fund would have to be invested in Kuwait while 25 per cent could go overseas.

After cabinet approval of the regulations, the stock exchange will have to draw up trading and administration procedures.

According to the sources, the exchange was also considering the introduction of options and forward deals but this was much further down the road.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, April 25, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	French franc	85.1	86.2
Pound Sterling	914.5	925.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	409.6	414.2
Deutsche mark	288.2	291.9	Dutch guilder	255.4	258.6
Swiss franc	326.4	331.0	Swedish crown	84.8	85.8
			Italian lira (for 100)	39.3	39.8
			Belgian franc (for 10)	137.7	139.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	1.7010/20	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1885/95	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8655/62	Deutsche mark
	2.1040/50	Dutch guilders
	1.6450/60	Swiss francs
	39.04/07	Belgian francs
	6.3125/75	French francs
	1367/1368	Italian lire
	131.28/38	Japanese yen
	6.3460/510	Swedish crowns
	6.7705/55	Norwegian crowns
	7.2560/610	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	385.70/386.10	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

BY REUTERS

SYDNEY — Market holiday.

TOKYO — Prices closed sharply higher after Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said he and his cabinet would resign over the Recruit share scandal. The Nikkei surged 438.86 to 33,244.78.

HONG KONG — Prices were slightly easier at midday after dull trading in the absence of new incentives. The Hang Seng index closed 7.99 lower at 3,088.00.

SINGAPORE — A late rally by bargain hunters helped stock prices partially recover early losses. The Straits Times industrial index closed 1.13 lower at 1,246.11.

BOMBAY — Prices finished higher in active trading for the new account but off the day's highs as early momentum faded on institutional profit-taking, brokers said.

FRANKFURT — Shares reversed initial falls, largely on speculation that the government will abolish its stock turnover tax. The real-time 30-share DAX index rose 4.04 to 1,372.42.

ZURICH — Market closed slightly lower but shares of the chemical group Hoffmann-La Roche rose in heavy trading. The all-share Swiss index shed 5.8 to 1,018.3.

PARIS — Prices declined on thin volume, with investors sidelined by interest rate uncertainty and a general lack of enthusiasm. The 50-share bourse indicator fell by 0.86 per cent.

LONDON — Shares were steady but the market remained cautious ahead of Wednesday's release of Britain's March trade figures. At 1440 GMT, the FTSE 100 index was up 10.6 at 2,072.6.

NEW YORK — Prices rose on news of a smaller than expected rise in U.S. durable goods orders in March, but the later dropped back on profit-taking. The Dow was up six at 2,408.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Napoli manager Bianchi says he'll stay

NAPLES (R) — Napoli manager Ottavio Bianchi says he will stay with the UEFA Cup finalists until 1990 after a cool reception to his offer to leave in June. The Italian club accused Bianchi of insensitive timing in announcing his wish to break his contract while the team was preparing for its first European club soccer final. "In view of the pandemonium which broke out I have no problem staying until 1990, worse luck for them," said Bianchi, who has clashed with players several times since he joined Napoli in 1985. "I was only showing my willingness to break certain ties which I thought could help sort out the usual end-of-season arguments," he told Italian television.

China short of funds for 1990 Asian Games

BEIJING (AP) — China is soliciting public contributions because it does not have enough money to finance the 11th Asian Games scheduled for Beijing next year. The state needs to come up with at least 300 million yuan (\$51 million) to meet costs for the games, the largest sporting event ever held in China, the official China Daily said Tuesday. The report quoted Wang Zhiliang of the Asian Games organising committee as saying construction costs for the games will be 2.185 billion yuan (\$390 million) and administrative expenses will be 330 million yuan (\$59 million). Wang said the government has obtained 300 million yuan in public contributions but needs at least 300 million yuan more to meet all costs. Fund-raising is being done by selling advertisements, permitting monopolies of some important materials authorised by the state, issuing souvenirs and accepting donations from individuals and enterprises.

Hlasek slumps out

MONTE CARLO (R) — Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland headed a parade of seeds sliding out of the \$600,000 Monte Carlo Open men's tennis Grand Prix in the wind and rain Tuesday. With a blustery wind blowing in from the Mediterranean and continual light rain falling, fourth-seed Hlasek was trounced 6-4, 6-1 by Martin Jaito of Argentina, losing finalist last year but unseeded this time round. Yugoslavia's big-hitting Slobodan Zivonovic, the 11th seed, was knocked out by Sweden's Jan Gunnarsson and number 15 Mark Woodforde of Australia also made an early exit to Uruguayan Marcelo Filippini. "It was my first tournament on clay in eight months," Hlasek explained. "I played poorly. I missed a lot of balls. I made it very easy for him to beat me today."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BOOST THOSE ODDS

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ K 8
♥ K Q 7 5
♦ Q 7 6
♣ 8 5 4 3

EAST
♠ Q 10 5
♥ A 9 7 3 2
♦ 9 8
♣ K Q 9 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A 6 4
♥ A 10 6 4 2
♦ Void
♣ A Q 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♣ 3 ♥ Pass
6 ♥ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Show some people a finesse position and they look no further. Present the same holding to a good player and he immediately looks for better odds than 50-50.

Perhaps there was a better way to investigate slam possibilities on this hand from a pair tournament, such as with a cue-bidding sequence. However, after North's forcing jump raise, South bid what he thought he could make, and the result was a fair slam.

and at first glance it might seem that the fate of the contract hinged on the club finesse. Those players who banked all on one roll of the dice were disappointed, for when the finesse lost they eventually had to concede a second club trick for down one.

The declarer who were more learned in dummy-play technique found a line that gave them a chance even if the club-monarch was unfavourably placed. They ruffed the opening diamond lead, drew trumps in two rounds ending on the board, and ruffed dummy's remaining low diamond. The king of spades provided access to the table to cash the ace of diamonds for a club discard.

Declarer now took both his black aces, then crossed to the board with a spade ruff to lead a club. East produced the ten and declarer went in with the queen. Had the king been with East, the contract would have been secure. As the cards lay, West was able to capture the queen of clubs with the king, but declarer's other chance paid off. Since West had started with a doubleton king of clubs, he was now forced to return a diamond, allowing declarer to trump in dummy while discarding his remaining club loser from hand. At the table, as in life, a little foresight can be most rewarding.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 4-22



"The last time I went fishing the only thing I caught was heck from my wife."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOSUM
SHAMC
AMLAMM
LUNYUR



WHAT THE PHAROAH WHO ATE CRACKERS IN BED WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumble: PRIZE FLAME LAUNCH PLACID

Answer: How the sculptors raised money for their annual shindig—THEY ALL CHIPPED IN



Going to press... Bobby Robson, England's soccer manager, meets his fiercest critics as his side prepare for their crucial World Cup tie against Albania Wednesday

World Cup soccer prospects

LONDON (R) — Gary Lineker will seek to end his own scoring drought and help repair the damaged morale of English soccer when he leads the attack against Albania in a World Cup qualifier at Wembley Wednesday.

Lineker, who has not scored for England since last May when he hit the winner against Switzerland in a friendly, has shown signs of improved form with his Spanish club Barcelona in recent weeks but needs to prove he remains an international marksman of the highest quality.

If he can end his run of seven games without a goal, Lineker will not only lift England clear of Sweden at the top of European qualifying group two, but also revive English spirits after the tragedy at the Liverpool-Nottingham Forest F.A Cup semifinal at Hillsborough which claimed 95 lives 10 days ago.

England manager Bobby Robson captured the mood of his team when he said: "We have all had to steel ourselves for the task, to get our minds right at a time of grief and mourning."

The game took such a knock at Hillsborough that a good English performance and win is needed to give a boost for the whole country. I will tell the players nothing less will do."

Robson's squad has been weakened by the withdrawal of Liverpool's John Barnes, who has committed himself to attend funerals this week, but his team is still likely to be too strong for Albania's well-organized but limited side.

East Germany miss 8 regulars

MOSCOW (R) — Struggling East Germany, beaten at home by Turkey two weeks ago, go into Wednesday's World Cup soccer qualifier against the Soviet Union without eight regular players because of injury.

In contrast to their success in other sports, the East German soccer team seems lately to lack strategic sense, commitment, and, at times, even elementary skills.

First-choice goalkeeper Rene Mueller is missing for the match in Kiev, replaced by Joerg Weissflog, as are defenders Mathias Lindner, Ronald Kress and Detlef Schoessler. Libero Frank Rohde and midfielders Joerg Smebner, Hans-Uwe Pilz and Ralf Minge.

Trainer Manfred Zapf has called up Frank Lieberam, the Libero who scored the equaliser in Dynamo Dresden's UEFA Cup semifinal second leg match against VfB Stuttgart.

There are six players in the 16-man squad from Dresden, who are well clear at the top of the East German first division.

Romania looking good

ATHENS (R) — Romania, with the strength of European Cup finalists Steaua Bucharest to bolster them, can underline their World Cup finals claim with another victory over Greece.

Romania beat the Greeks 3-0 at home in their first European group one clash in November and look set once more to outgun the younger and less experienced Greek side.

Romanian and former Steaua coach Emerich Jancsi told a Romanian sporting paper he considered the match against Greece "important, but not the most important in the group so far."

After arriving in Athens Monday, he said: "Our esteem forces us to play well and win."

Spanish morale low

DUBLIN (R) — Luis Suarez is worried that the shock waves of Real Madrid's 5-0 European Cup thrashing by AC Milan will undermine Spain's bid to continue their unbeaten World Cup qualifying run when they meet Ireland.

Canada drugs inquiry probes Johnson

Sabotage claim ruled out

TORONTO (AP) — A Canadian inquiry has all but rejected the theory that someone tampered with Ben Johnson's drink in the testing room at the Seoul Olympics, thus causing the sprinter to fail a drug test and lose his gold medal and world record in the 100 metres.

In a surprise declaration during a day of testimony Monday, the senior counsel to an investigating commission interrupted proceedings to announce the lawyers — including Johnson's — had agreed with the decision.

"In light of the public statements made following the disqualification in Seoul, we as counsel and our investigators considered it our obligation to make a thorough investigation of the sabotage theory," Robert Armstrong read from a prepared statement.

"That investigation has led us... to conclude at this stage that it would not advance your work to pursue that theory."

The theory that Johnson's urine test was somehow sabotaged was rejected last September by Olympic officials, who subsequently stripped the Jamaican-born sprinter of his medal and record. He was suspended from international competition for two years.

But Johnson's coach, Charlie Francis, raised it again when he appeared last month before the national probe into drug abuse in sport. Francis acknowledged Johnson had used banned steroids since 1981, but claimed he wasn't on the stanozolol found in his urine at Seoul.

Francis blamed the test result on a mysterious man he reported to be hanging around the testing

facility, saying he must have tampered with Johnson's drink.

Armstrong's statement came in the midst of testimony by Johnson's physiotherapist, Waldemar Matuszewski, who was in the testing room with the sprinter after the race.

Matuszewski acknowledged the man was in the room, but he wasn't concerned about him. The physiotherapist said he later signed a form approving the testing procedure, a copy of which was submitted to the inquiry as evidence.

While the International Olympic Committee has said the sprinter would be welcomed at the 1992 games in Barcelona, Sport Minister Jean Charest said in Ottawa that Johnson won't represent Canada.

"As far as the government of Canada is concerned, if an athlete is caught using steroids, he is banned for life with the right of appeal to the minister after two years," Charest said.

Matuszewski testified earlier he administered what he suspected were banned drugs to at least one Canadian athlete — quarter-miler Mike Sokolowski — and assumed many others were also using the drugs.

Sokolowski and nine other track athletes have admitted to the probe to using steroids.

The Warsaw-born Matuszewski told Mr. Justice Charles Dubin

that Italy's top sprinter once bit him on the face with a belt and threatened him for refusing to administer treatment.

The commission was in recess last week after two weeks of hearings in which several of the athletes who trained with Johnson at the Mazda Optimists track and field club appeared.

The track and field hearings opened in February with often startling testimony from Charlie Francis, Johnson's coach, about steroid use by the star sprinter and 12 other athletes dating back nearly a decade.

Johnson, 27, set the 100-metre world record of 9.83 seconds at Rome in 1987. His 9.79-second performance at Seoul was disallowed after the positive steroid test and the gold medal given to American Carl Lewis.

His only public statement since Seoul was that he never knowingly used drugs to enhance his performance.

The federal government formed the commission of inquiry into the use of drugs and banned practices intended to increase athletic performance after the positive test at Seoul turned Canadian celebration of Johnson's race into mourning and disgrace.

It held hearings on weightlifting before opening the lengthy sessions on track and field.

Presiding judge Charles Dubin has said repeatedly that the hearings are not aimed at one athlete or even one sport. He described them as a sweeping look at amateur sports and the pressures that may be encouraging young athletes to cheat.

Are blacks better athletes?

NEW YORK (AP) — Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis black athletes are generally "made better" than white athletes.

Baseball star Mike Schmidt says blacks are "much more suited to the sporting environment" and anthropologist Robert Malina says black children usually run faster and jump higher than their white counterpart.

The statements are made on a one-hour NBC special that examines the sensitive subject of race and sports.

"Black athletes — fact and fiction," an hour-long broadcast Tuesday night with host Tom Brokaw, attempts to explain why blacks dominate many U.S. sports. Some say the reasons are genetic. Others point to social and cultural factors.

The issue was raised in 1987, when Los Angeles Dodgers executive Al Campanis was fired after saying that blacks lacked "the necessities" to be major league managers. Last year, CBS-TV fired analyst Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder after he said blacks were bred to be good athletes.

The NBC programme is sure to revive the controversy.

Lewis, a sprinter and long jumper, says he thinks fellow blacks have a natural edge over whites in some sports because they carry less fat and have longer legs and arms.

But sociologist Harry Edwards



RACING AHEAD: A new NBC documentary reexamines the sensitive question of biological differences between the races in sport. Fundits of both colours can now be found on both sides of the argument

strongly disagrees, saying there are "no differences that make any difference" between black and white athletes.

Edwards says portraying blacks as natural athletes is dangerous because it reinforces the stereotype that blacks are "closer to beasts and animals... than they are to the rest of humanity."

Edwards says blacks excel in sports because their opportunities are limited in other areas by racism and discrimination.

However, the programme cites several studies that indicate blacks have a physical edge over whites at an early age.

In one test, 1,200 black and

white children up to 10 years old were tested for motor skill development. Researchers found that the black children acquired skills earlier in 15 of 30 tests, while whites led in only three.

The programme includes interviews with Canadian researcher Claude Bouchard and Gideon Ariel, who founded the Biomechanics division of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Bouchard said his studies show blacks have more "fast twitch" muscles, which are good for sprinting and jumping, while whites have a greater percentage of "slow twitch" muscles better suited for endurance events.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 1990

YOUR HOROSCOPE

— As Charred By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The day remains quiet until the afternoon when a sense of adventure and fun is stirred up. Indulge in pleasurable activities that will be enjoyed more so with someone you already know.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can be quick to fight, and to forget, without holding a grudge. Remember, some people hold grudges habitually.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Express your love of music and art. Your own talents are in a good cycle. A loving and interesting situation is approaching.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A lunch companion has interesting ideas. You may lack your usual flexibility today. Use your versatile skills.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) The social atmosphere is revealing. It is a better time to plan, than to do. Anger and arrogance are a devastating combination.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A misunderstanding results in confusion. A change in schedule will improve matters. Disorganization is frustrating and causes delays.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Start

important projects. Over-confidence and complacency can cause opportunities to pass by unnoticed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Too many compliments can give you a swollen head, even though you have earned the praise. Social matters are stimulating.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may suffer from a general lack of interest. Coast along with the tides of fate may serve your purpose best.

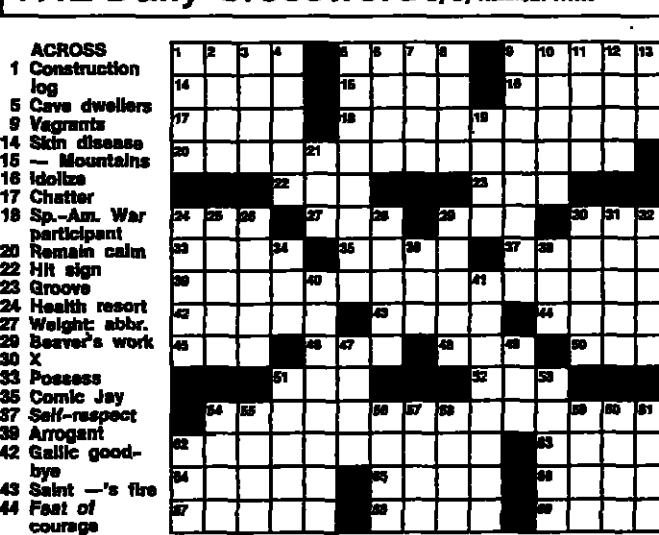
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Go for it, do it, and don't waste any time getting started. Your ideas bear fruit with your present take-chance attitude.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You pride yourself on fairness and humanitarian understanding. Avoid someone who has disappointed you in the past.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Set the record straight with the person who asks for help but rejects good advice. Jealousy can destroy a good friendship.

IF YOU CHOSE TO BORN TODAY He or she will be effervescent and spontaneous. Lucky situations and good fortune will be there for today's children. They will get what they need, when they need it, but without any extras. Expect your child to be hardworking, prudent, kind, humble and sociable.

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte



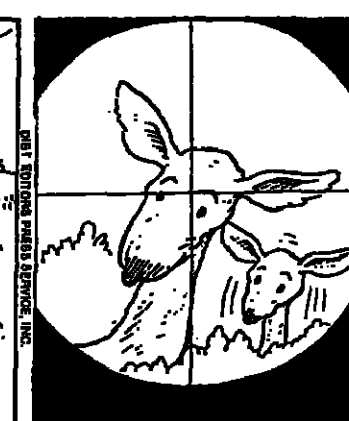
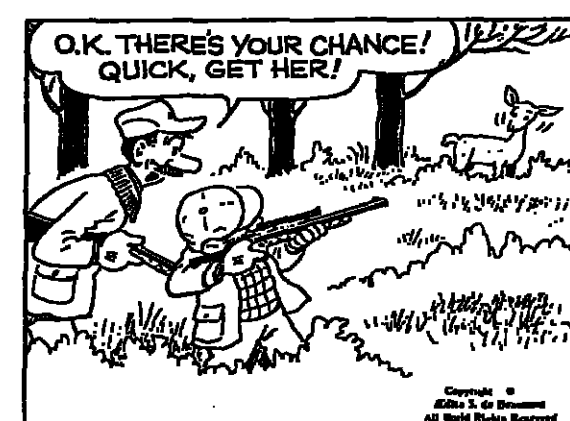
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS
1 Construction log
5 Cave dwellers
9 Vagabonds
14 Skin disease
15 Mountains
16 Lollards
17 Chatter
18 Sp.-Am. War participant
20 Beaming calm
22 Hit sign
23 Groove
24 Health resort
27 Weighty sob
29 Beaver's work
30 X
31 Possessive
32 Comic Jay
37 Self-respect
38 Arrogant
42 Gallic good-bye
43 Bait —'s the
44 Part of courage
45 Small amount
46 "Lemon" author
48 Wing
49 Cunning
50 "Joey"
52 Diamonds
54 Behave furtively
62 "Easy Rider"
63 Window base
64 — Mountains
65 Vortex
66 Heathen dally
67 Position
68 Sassy or Barney
69 Ratner's forte
DOWN
1 Gar. composer
2 Reverb
3 Indigo
4 Repairs
5 Predatory birds
6 Century plant
7 Cynical type
8 Echale audibly
9 Clear one's throat
10 Certain poet
11 Portend
12 Hematite and magnetite
13 Indignant to do
15 Mr. dance
16 Young hog
18 Himalayan
19 Slum
20 Snicker
21 Tenet
22 Grows weary
23 A Ford
24 Indignant to do
26 Chemical suffix
27 Nothing
28 Pole
29 Aristocrat of old Athens
30 Dec. 25 and Jan. 1
31 Nor. king
32 Textonic cry
33 Song of praise
34 Reddish dye
35 Whack
36 Ms. Kett
37 Active one
38 Within: pref.
39 Totals
40 Carnivore
41 Polk
42 House wings
43 Dance step

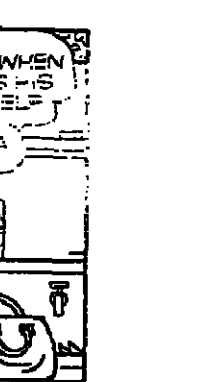
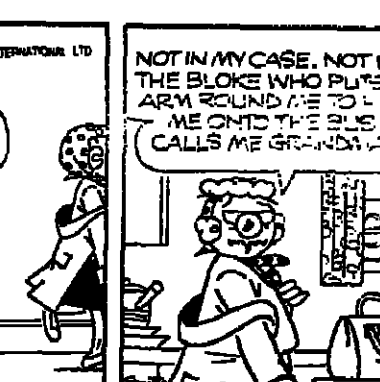
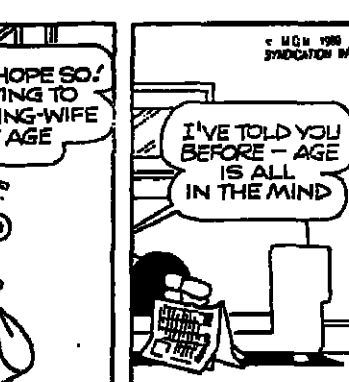
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





A student representative carries a list of demands past police lines to the Great Hall of People in Peking.

Media urge people to counter democratic movement

Peking on offensive

PEKING (R) — China issued a grim warning Tuesday against further student unrest, accusing protesters of a "planned conspiracy" to overthrow the Communist Party and plunge China into chaos.

The official media broke a virtual silence on the week-old unrest which has rocked Peking and other cities by urging the entire population to unite in a "serious political struggle" against the movement for democratic freedoms.

The statement, a commentary to be published in the People's Daily Wednesday but broadcast in advance on national radio and television, appeared to herald a crackdown and lessen the chances of dialogue between protesters and the government, the key goal of students.

The commentary was greeted with anger on campuses. Students at Peking's Qinghua University immediately called a mass meeting to discuss how to react, university sources said.

In language reminiscent of Peking's vitriolic attacks on Tibetan separatists, the commentary alleged that a "tiny minority" of people seeking to overthrow the Communist Party had manipulated the student movement.

Agitators had used 100,000-strong demonstrations in the heart of Peking last week and a two-day-old classroom strike by tens of thousands of students for evil aims, it said.

The demonstrations were held after the death April 15 of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang, a reformist who became a symbol to students of democratic freedoms.

"It is not that these people have grievances. They have a secret motive, to create chaos across the whole nation and destroy stability," the commentary said.

It attacked agitators for forming "illegal organisations," attempting to foment unrest among workers and peasants and in particular for criticising individual national leaders.

Campus cartoon posters have lampooned politicians, especially Premier Li Peng who has been portrayed as a pig and a snail "scared to come out of his shell and face students."

The commentary said students had used force to promote their strike and take control of college public address systems.

"If we are too tolerant, there will be more serious chaos ... if these people continue in their illegal activities, they will be severely punished," it said. Protest leaders have publicly declared their identities at campus meetings.

If the chaos continued, said the commentary, "our efforts to control inflation and official corruption will all be in vain ... the achievements of ten years of reform will be destroyed. Our hopeful China will become a hopeless, chaotic China."

It urged Communist Party members, workers and "the whole people" to unite to "protect the socialist system."

There was little sign of official interference Tuesday afternoon in the ferment of student protest meetings on several university campuses in Peking.

Students from several colleges earlier took to the streets hoping to win the hearts and minds of Peking's cautious residents by channelling public anger over inflation and corruption into support for democratic freedoms.

Groups patrolled the city playing tape-recorded accounts of their mass marches last week, a move they said was vital to counter propaganda in the government-run media. They collected donations from passers-by.

Posters aimed at passing workers hung outside the Peking University campus.

They focused on China's high inflation, official nepotism and corruption, the biggest sources of discontent among ordinary people. Others at the University of Politics and Law called for a strike by industrial workers.

Protests in Peking have been almost completely peaceful, but rioting — apparently not by students — erupted on the weekend in the provincial cities of Hunan and Changsha in the wake of memorial marches for Hu.

China's official media has become a target of anger for student protesters, who list press freedom as a key demand.

Marchers from a Peking technical college Tuesday chanted: "The People's Daily cheats the people, central TV turns black into white and the Peking Daily prints nonsense."

COLUMN
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Witch gets holiday

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — An air force woman who says she is a witch has been granted permission to observe her faith's eight holidays. Airman Patricia Hutchins, 21, who says she has been a wiccan, or witch, for four years, asked the air force to allow her to take time off for religious holidays just as it does members of other religions. Wiccans generally believe that the sun, moon, earth and all life are divine and are personifications of all creative energy. David Engler, chaplain at Lackland Air Force Base, wrote a letter to Hutchins' supervising officers at Wilford Hall medical center, asking that they follow air force regulations on religious freedom. Lackland spokesman Bob Macnaughton said. Air force regulation 35-53 states: "Members of the air force are free to express religious beliefs in a manner that is consistent and fair to all." Macnaughton said. Hutchins, a physical therapist at Lackland, said she was surprised by the chaplain's expedient help. "I have found that chaplains in the air force are very open-minded," she said. "I was surprised they did it, but I'm very grateful." Among the days she'll be allowed to observe are all Hallows eve, Oct. 31, and days marking the changes of the seasons. Hutchins traces her faith to Celtic Ireland.

'WHO' reunites

NEW YORK (R) — The WHO, the legendary British rock group, announced Monday they were reuniting for a 25-city North American tour this summer in celebration of the band's 25th anniversary. The stadium tour, which reunites original band members Pete Townshend, Roger Daltrey and John Entwistle, is scheduled to start June 24 in Toronto and run until Aug. 30 when it ends in Oakland, California. On June 27, the band will play a benefit concert performance of its rock opera, "Tommy" at Radio City Music Hall in New York to raise money for the Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy Foundation for autistic children.

Spielbergs to divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) — Steven Spielberg, director of such hit movies as "Jaws" and "E.T.," and his wife, actress Amy Irving, said Monday they were divorcing after three years of marriage. "Our mutual decision, however difficult, was made in the spirit of caring," the couple, who have a three-year-old son, said in a joint statement. They said financial settlements had already been reached but gave no details. Spielberg, 41, whose phenomenal box office successes also include "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" has a net worth of over \$200 million, according to Forbes magazine. Irving has appeared in films including "Yentl" and the recent "Crossing Delancey."

Perfect timing of award for Ball

LOS ANGELES (R) — Comedian Lucille Ball, recovering in the hospital from emergency heart surgery, got just what the doctor ordered Monday — an award for her contributions to developing young performers. "The timing is absolutely perfect," said Ball's daughter Lucie Arnaz, who accepted the 1989 Eastman Kodak Second Century Award on behalf of her mother. "This particular award comes at a time when my mom really, really needs it." Ball, 77, known worldwide for her role as a dizzy, redheaded housewife in television's "I Love Lucy," is still listed in serious condition in Cedars-Sinai Medical Center but hospital officials say her condition is improving every day.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	°C	°F	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	04	38	68	47	Cloudy
ATHENS	11	52	28	78	Clear
BAHRAIN	23	73	35	85	Clear
BANGKOK	26	79	36	97	Clear
Buenos Aires	17	62	22	71	Cloudy
Cairo	20	68	27	88	Cloudy
CHICAGO	08	42	21	70	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	05	41	10	50	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	05	41	19	68	Cloudy
GENEVA	03	37	18	64	Cloudy
HONG KONG	20	68	22	72	Cloudy
STANBUL	11	52	28	68	Clear
LONDON	02	36	07	45	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	12	53	17	62	Cloudy
MADRID	08	48	14	57	Clear
MECCA	22	72	40	104	Rain
MUMBAI	23	74	28	79	Clear
MONTREAL	01	34	05	41	Cloudy
MOSCOW	06	48	18	64	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	23	77	37	89	Clear
NEW YORK	03	37	17	62	Cloudy
PARIS	07	46	18	64	Rain
ROME	04	39	21	70	Clear
TOKYO	12	54	19	64	Clear
VIENNA	05	41	15	59	Cloudy

KAL bomber sentenced to death

SEOUL (Agencies) — A Seoul court Tuesday sentenced to death by hanging a 27-year-old woman who admitted she blew up a South Korean airliner, killing all 115 people aboard, on orders of communist North Korea, state radio said.

The radio quoted chief Judge Chong Sang-Hak as saying defendant Kim Hyun-Hui committed a heinous crime and deserved to be executed in line with international conventions that require heavy punishment for air terrorism.

The sentence had been widely predicted. Seoul officials have frequently said, however, that the government would probably order a reprieve, portraying her as merely a pawn in North Korea's campaign of belligerence towards the South.

The radio said Kim's lawyers would decide soon whether or not to appeal against the death sentence.

At two earlier hearings, the pretty former child actress confessed to planting explosives aboard a Korean Air Lines Boeing 707 in November, 1987, on the orders of Kim Jong-Il, son of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

She said the attack was intended to fan security fears ahead



Kim Hyun-Hui cries in court of the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul and discourage countries from sending teams.

In the event, a record 160 countries attended the games, including top North Korean allies the Soviet Union and China, but Pyongyang stayed away after failing to win co-hosting rights.

North Korea has strongly denied any involvement in the plane's destruction. Kim Hyun-Hui was extradited to South Korea in December, 1987, from Bahrain, where she and her travelling companion were detained.

They had left the doomed Baghdad-Seoul flight during a Gulf stopover after planting the bombs on board. When stopped by Bahrain security authorities, her companion, an elderly man, swallowed cyanide capsules and died.

Kim burst into tears when the verdict was read. Relatives of the victims sat quietly in the court, listening to the verdict.

Takeshita resignation compounds stalemate

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, losing popularity fast amid an influence-peddling scandal, said Tuesday he will resign but left the timing of his departure and the identity of his successor unclear.

The Recruit scandal, which has bedeviled Japanese politics for half of Takeshita's 18-month tenure, leaves his country in a state of political uncertainty. It appeared possible that an elder politician from Takeshita's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) may become a sort of interim prime minister until the situation is sorted out.

The candidate mentioned in many news reports Tuesday was former Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito, a diabetic whose health was in question.

But Ito, the 75-year-old chairman of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's Executive Council, appeared to decline.

"I think it should be a young person. 'It's time for a young person to be in charge,' he said.

The Recruit scandal erupted last summer with revelations that the company had sold out-price shares in a real estate subsidiary to more than 150 politicians, bureaucrats, business leaders and media executives.

The shares, often bought with money lent by another Recruit subsidiary, yielded fat profits when sold after the subsidiary went public in 1986.

Recruit is suspected of seeking favours from bureaucrats who regulated its main business

in job-placement magazines and from top executives of companies with which it did business, including the giant utility Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation.

Other party elders who have been named as possible successors to Takeshita include former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda, 84, who has announced he will retire from politics, and Takeshita's mentor Shin Kanemura, 74, a former deputy prime minister.

Other powerful figures in the party are as tainted by the Recruit Company scandal as Takeshita, including his rival and party secretary general, former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe.

"The Recruit question has caused a grave crisis for the

national's parliamentary democracy," Takeshita, 65, said in a live nationwide television broadcast after telling the cabinet of his intention to resign.

"As the chief executive of government and president of the ruling party, I deeply apologize."

Asked about his successor, he declined to comment, saying "it is not the place of one resigning to express such opinions."

After Takeshita steps down, governing party members would choose their next party president, who would in turn become prime minister, as the Liberal Democrats have a majority in both houses of parliament.

Takeshita's entire cabinet and the rest of the party lead-

Panama assails U.S. over covert operation

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — Acting Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma has accused the United States of secretly giving \$10 million to opponents of Manuel Antonio Noriega as part of a plan to retain control of the Panama Canal.

Noriega, head of the defence forces and Panama's de facto ruler, accused the United States of playing a "dirty game." He told a news conference that "the men who speak of democracy have dirtied their hands."

Solis Palma said Monday that "Panamanian traitors" were conspiring to renege on the 1977 treaties under which control of the vital waterway is to be ceded to Panama in the year 2000.

"The Panamanian people — and it is important that the United States know this and that (U.S.) President George Bush not be deceived — are supremely angered."

The United States has been at odds with Noriega, once a strong ally, since last year, when a U.S. grand jury indicted him on charges of drug trafficking and money laundering.

U.S. News and World Report said in its May 1 issue that Bush had signed a secret intelligence

directive to give \$10 million to the Panama opposition. It says the money was to be used for printing, advertising, transportation and communications for opposition candidates in May 7 elections.

Bush refused Monday to confirm reports he had ordered a covert action campaign in Panama but said he wanted the presidential elections there to be free and fair.

"I don't discuss intelligence matters," Bush said. "We're involved in encouraging the elections to be free and fair and open." Bush told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Chicago. He said Panama should let international election observers monitor the elections.

Noriega has ruled since February 1988 when he ousted President Eric Delvalle, the leader who is still recognised by Washington. Delvalle had sought Noriega's resignation as head of the defence forces after he was indicted.

Officials have said the elections, if they were free and fair, were an opportunity to resolve outstanding problems between Washington and Panama City.



Manuel Antonio Noriega

But State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the focus of international attention was needed to ensure a free and fair election process in Panama.

"We note that Noriega's regime continues to restrict visas, as well as hotel accommodations and auto rental facilities, in an effort to discourage observers from evaluating the electoral process," she said.

Attorney Guillermo Endara, who is running against Noriega-backed presidential candidate Carlos Duke, Monday denied receiving any campaign funds from the United States.

Dublin protests to Pretoria over arms

DUBLIN (R) — Ireland has protested forcefully to South Africa over allegations that Pretoria supplied arms to Protestant extremists in Northern Ireland in exchange for a British missile, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"The protest was delivered in the strongest possible terms," the spokesman said after Irish Ambassador Andrew O'Rourke called on the South African embassy in London. Dublin has no diplomatic relations with Pretoria.

Three Protestant militants fighting to keep Northern Ireland British were arrested with an American arms dealer in Paris Friday. They were alleged to be selling a stolen model of a British Blowpipe anti-aircraft missile to a South African diplomat.

Dublin's Monday night protest "reflected the deep concern of the Irish government that anyone should contribute directly or indirectly to the activities of paramilitaries in Northern Ireland," the Irish spokesman said.

British members of parliament charged that weapons supplied by South Africa as part of an alleged deal with the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) to which the three arrested Irishmen belong,

had already been used in Northern Ireland.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher voiced concern to a visiting South African minister who repeated Pretoria's stand that it does not supply arms to terrorists.

The shoulder-held Blowpipe can down low-flying aircraft, though British defence officials said the one involved in the alleged Paris deal, a demonstration model stolen from a barracks in Northern Ireland April 11, could not be fired.

The missile is manufactured by Short Brothers of Belfast. Britain's Northern Ireland minister, Tom King, told reporters the case had serious implications for the firm "because it threatens to bring into question the reliability of Shorts and their security."

Security specialists have suggested that South Africa, trying to get round an 11-year-old international anti-apartheid arms embargo, may have been interested in acquiring blueprints of the advanced Starstreak and Javelin missiles made by Shorts.

The affair comes at a delicate time for the state-run plane and missile manufacturer because the company is being prepared for privatisation.

NATO arms rift as wide as ever

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has rejected a plea by West Germany to hold negotiations with the Soviet Union to scale down battlefield nuclear missiles and intends to proceed with work to upgrade the weapons.

The dispute, which is causing strains within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance, was aired for nearly four hours Monday by high-level West German and American delegations. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said the discussions would be continued, but he did not say when.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg then headed back to Bonn to bring the bad news to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who wanted to persuade the Americans to open negotiations on the U.S.-built Lance missiles.

As they departed for Bonn, however, Genscher and Stoltenberg told German reporters the talks were "encouraging." They did not elaborate and said that at

this point it was better not to comment publicly, said a West German official who asked not to be identified.

Said Baker of the discussions: "They explained their positions which the chancellor will formally present to the Federal Republic of Germany April 27 ... we explained ours. As a result, we understand their position better and they understand ours better."

Kohl's formal presentation will be made to the West German parliament Thursday.

Bonn sought the meeting in Washington following an all-night parley late last week of Kohl's fragile coalition, which political analysts say is in danger of defeat in next year's elections.

Coalition sources said the Kohl government agreed last week to press for quick talks on short-range nuclear forces (SNF) and to postpone a decision on upgrading NATO's Lance short-range nuclear rockets — positions aimed at regaining the support of wavering swing voters who oppose nuclear arms.



Protests against Lance missile modernisation have put off the project until after the West German elections.

But U.S. officials dashed cold water on the idea of SNF negotiations as the State Department talks dragged on.

President Bush, appealing to West Germany for unity, told reporters, travelling to Chicago aboard Air Force One that a "fair accord" by Bonn was unacceptable.

"Secretary Baker has said

many times ... we think it would be a mistake to engage in arms control negotiations on SNF," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said at a news briefing shortly after the talks began.

Baker represented the United States along with Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and National Security Adviser Brent Scow-

croft.

The East-West conventional arms talks, which opened last month in Vienna, are aimed at big reductions in non-nuclear arms that could be used to mount a surprise attack. U.S. officials say SNF concessions could weaken the bargaining position in Vienna.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Rushdie reading cancelled after threats

VIENNA (R) — A group of Austrian writers has called off a planned reading from Salman Rushdie's novel "Satanic Verses" after receiving more than 25 death and bomb threats, organisers said Monday. A spokesman said the threats were received by an Austrian students organisation and two Iranians due to take part in the reading and discussion.

S. African black unionists acquitted

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A judge acquitted a prominent union leader and four other black activists of subversion Monday and said forming community organisations and boycotts was not a crime, but a form of protest against corruption and poor living conditions. Moses Mayekiso, head of the country's largest metalworkers union, was charged from the supreme court building to the nearby Central Methodist Church on the shoulders of jubilant supporters as police ordered the crowd to stop singing and chanting and told journalists to leave the area.

Malaysia's king ends 5-year term

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia's eighth king, Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, ended his five-year term Tuesday and returned to his hometown of Johore Bahru. In Malaysia, the king's title is Yang Di-Pertuan Agong. The ninth King Sultan Azlan Shah, 61, of Perak state will arrive Wednesday in the capital from Ipoh, 200 kilometres to the north, to take his oath of office. Under the only system of its sort in the world, the nine rulers of nine Malaysian states elect by secret ballot one of their number as the national king for a five-year term.

Premadasa invites Gandhi to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AP) — President Ranasinghe Premadasa has invited Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to visit Sri Lanka where Indian troops are battling Tamil rebels, according to officials said. The invitation was extended through Lakshan Lal Mehrotra, India's new high commissioner, said the officials. Mehrotra presented his credentials to Premadasa Monday during a meeting that lasted 55 minutes, said a spokeswoman for the Indian high commission.

Lawsuit against Marcos to proceed

President Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda for allegedly stealing huge sums of money from his country. The suit charges many violations of racketeering laws and seeks as much as \$50 billion in punitive damages. The justices, in a brief order, left intact the ruling by a U.S. court of appeals in San Francisco last December that the Philippine government can sue Marcos and his wife in the United States where the couple live in exile.

مكتبة امين لاهل